

# THE LOGGER'S BARK

a magazine

Radio Club of Tacoma



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James

Agent 0073

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US State Department

Photo by W7UUU



[www.W7DK.org](http://www.W7DK.org)

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**But don't stop there! Each issue is 50 or  
more pages of fun and cool stuff to explore!  
Scroll on!**

**HAVE A SUBMISSION FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?**[loggersbark@gmail.com](mailto:loggersbark@gmail.com)



# In Memoriam

Silent Keys & Friends Remembered



In loving memory of

Nick Winter, **K7MO**

June 7, 1952–March 6, 2025

IT'S WITH PROFOUND SADNESS that I have to write this column. Joseph "Nick" Winter, Jr., **K7MO**, my best friend and mentor in amateur radio for over 50 years, passed away suddenly on Thursday, March 6th. As **WA7IVO**, Nick joined the Radio Club of Tacoma in July of 1970, and quickly became one of the prominent members, joining in as many activities, chores, and duties as he could to further the hobby and help his fellow hams. He served on many committees over the years and several terms as a Board member. As a reward for his many good deeds and accomplishments, Nick was awarded the Doc Spike Inspirational Award in 2006 for over 35 years of contributions of time and treasure.

In recent years, Nick was an important advisor on everything involving the club's tower and repeater systems. His vast technical skills and patience working through complex systems was an invaluable asset to the club in every way.

But beyond his club duties and responsibilities, Nick was a friend to everyone. I first met him in winter of 1975 when I was only 13 years old (we met at a clubhouse function, along with his dad, Joe **WA7RWK**). On March 17, 1975 Nick was my very first amateur radio contact, on 40m CW, when I was a brand new Novice (**WN7AWK**). Over the ensuing years, Nick was an invaluable friend and Mentor ("Elmer") to me, and even came to my house on a snowy January day the following year to help me fix my "new to me"





# In Memoriam

Silent Keys & Friends Remembered—Nick K7MO



Heathkit SB-101 transceiver after I had bungled the output section. He set up his shop right in my family kitchen, and within a couple of hours he had me back on the air again.

Being nine years older than me, he was larger than life to me and I truly felt he was the smartest guy I'd ever met. He was always there when I had technical challenges or questions. Once I couldn't get a new dipole to work so he came over in an hour to climb the paper-white birch tree outside my bedroom window only to discover my lousy solder joint at the center insulator. I then joined him up in the tree and he showed me the *right* way to "solder outside in the cold".

He always had a great sense of humor, a beaming smile, and a warm welcome into his family home—and that warmth and welcoming attitude did very well for him over his life. He brought knowledge, challenges, fun, and above all, he loved amateur radio and everything it entails and he was happy to share.

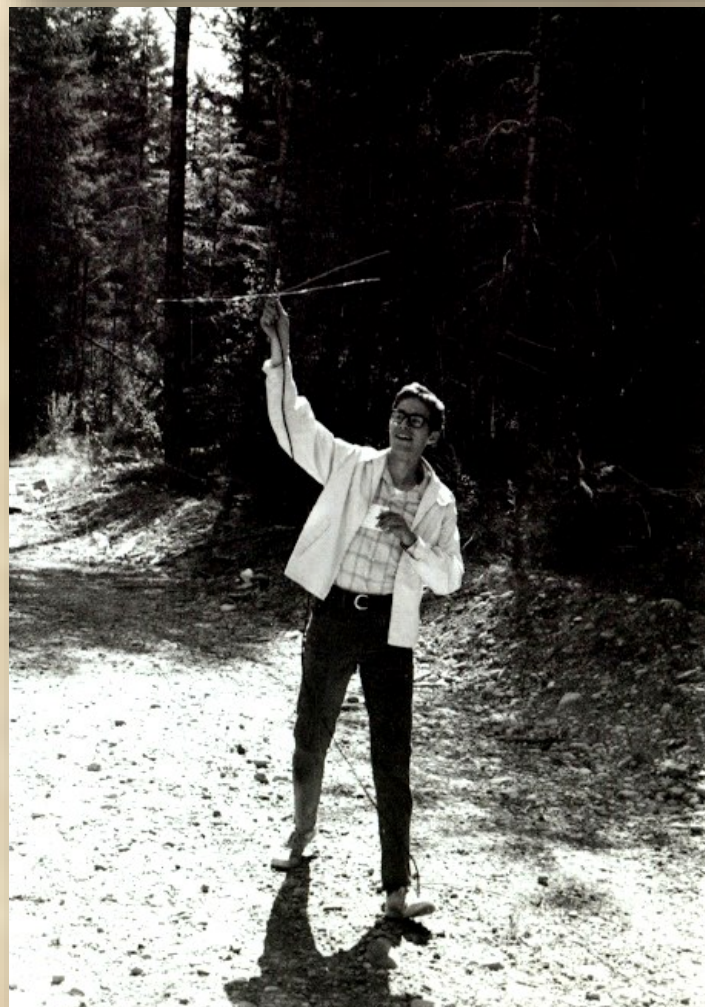
We will all miss Nick, no question. Please see my other article in this issue about a planned event prior to his sudden passing. We were going to recreate that first QSO from 50 years ago on March 17th, but alas that fell short by 11 days. It will still be held in his honor.

I filmed a full W7DK Living Histories video of Nick last Fall—watch for that to be published next month.

His loving wife Anna, **K7ANA**, will be holding a memorial service no later than early summer, to allow time for family abroad to arrange travel to the Northwest.

**73, OM**—you truly made a mark on all of us. May all your immortal DX be nothing but the good stuff!

—Dave **W7UUU**





# In Memoriam

Silent Keys & Friends Remembered—Nick K7MO





# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Monthly ruminations from our President

Adam  
Barbera  
W2NCC

## ECHOLINK, SMARTPHONES, and the NEXT GENERATION OF HAMS

There's a common mindset in the ham radio community that when a young person gets licensed, the next step is to buy a handheld transceiver (HT) and get on the air. While this seems like a great way to get involved, it doesn't always lead to the best experience.

A 5-watt, \$35 HT with a whip antenna doesn't always guarantee a clear connection to repeaters. Many new operators quickly become frustrated when they struggle to get full quieting into a repeater. The combination of low power and a small antenna often limits access to just a few local repeaters. Meanwhile, today's young hams are accustomed to using their smartphones for nearly everything—ordering food, shopping, streaming music, and staying connected with friends. Given that, introducing them to EchoLink and similar technologies is an easy, low-cost way to help them engage with the ham radio community.

[EchoLink](#) is a free app that allows licensed amateur radio operators to access repeaters and connect with hams worldwide using the internet. No additional ra-

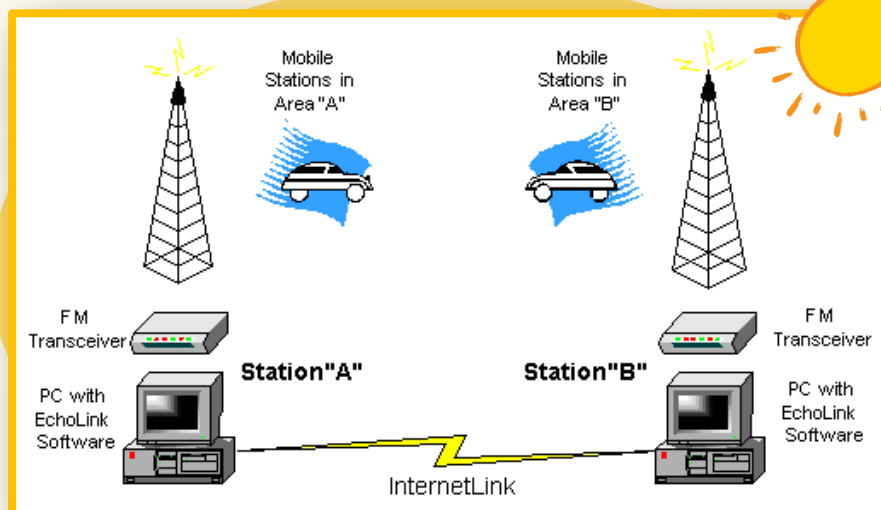
dio equipment is required. What's great is that with a smartphone and EchoLink, hams can reliably communicate with repeaters and stations across the U.S. and beyond. Unlike a weak HT signal that may struggle to reach a repeater, EchoLink provides clear, reliable audio over an internet connection. This allows new hams to interact with others, participate in nets, and gain experience before investing in expensive equipment.

Some hams argue that because EchoLink uses the internet, it's not "real" ham radio. That's simply not true. EchoLink users must be licensed, and FCC Part 97 rules still apply,

including proper station identification.

A smartphone with EchoLink eliminates the challenges of carrying an HT and staying within repeater range, giving new operators an easy way to connect with other hams, learn repeater operation, and practice radio protocol. Once they gain experience and confidence, many will naturally want to explore other aspects of the hobby, such as mobile radios and HF operation.

—Adam W2NCC





# SECRETARY'S REPORT

## W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X



### APRIL SECRETARY'S MESSAGE—HELLO EVERYONE!

This month, I'd like to discuss a bit of modernization in the shack. Boat anchor aficionados might want to stop reading now.

I've been a ham for around 38 years, give or take a bit. I started in the radio hobby as a Short Wave Listener, (SWL) and Scanner type in the late 1970s. I had a Hallicrafters SX-101 receiver that one of the hams in the neighborhood gave to me in the hope that I'd graduate up to amateur radio and give up on the SWL stuff. It never happened back then, but I was introduced to big, heavy boat anchors way back then.

My first ham radio was a Kenwood TS-520s that I got from the local ham radio store. (Which went out of business decades ago) and it was a great radio for beginners like me. I learned how to tune that radio, and once you learned that you could basically tune any other radio that had tube finals, including amplifiers.

I used that rig for about a year and then graduated to a Kenwood TS-940, which was all solid state, and offered "no tuning". I eventually got a matching amplifier which had tubes, so I still needed to know how to do that procedure and was glad I had learned.

Fast forward a decade or three, and I've only been

through another two radios and two amps. Same scenario: solid state transceivers and tube amps, but in the interim, I had also begun using wire antennas fed with ladder-line and window-line which also added *more* tuning to my daily operations.

So, yeah, I knew how to do it, but I began to think that maybe it was time to take a big leap and automate my station. This was helped along with by the automation that we, the HF committee, have been doing at the Radio Club of Tacoma. We now have two mostly-automatic HF stations upstairs. These stations have been featured quite a few times here in *The Loggers Bark*.

After the last couple of pieces were in and working, I wanted to duplicate our club station at home. It took me a couple of years to save up enough "mad money" to acquire the same equipment that the club has, but I think that I've finally got the latest and most likely, the last station that I will need!

I did sell some of the old stuff and I did keep

some "backup equipment". Because, you never know, even "new stuff" might have problems. But for right now, my station only has knobs on the transceiver. Mostly total automation, turn on, tune in, drop out!

-73 Gary WG7X



Secretary Gary WG7X





WHILE PERUSING OLD *LOGGER'S BARK* EDITIONS, as I like to do from time to time while hanging out in the Oakman Library, I came across some interesting tidbits that I thought might really surprise our modern members of the Radio Club of Tacoma.

One of the stand-outs to me was noticing the *Logger's Bark* Staff as listed in the June 1997 issue. Not only was there an editor (Kathleen Nace, NØEYK from Gig Harbor), there were a total of SIX reporters, a photographer, two proofreaders, and a publishing team (that handled the printing and mailing). That's really amazing! Compared to these days, where 99% of the content of *The Bark* is created by the Editor—all the feature and "Stray Topics" articles, page layouts, artwork, proofreading, and 99% of the photos etc.—it's really cool to think at one time, *The Bark* was run by more than a *single person*. It was a whole team! Of course, huge kudos to Anne N7ANN for the 6-10 hours she contributes every month to assist with final proofing in the days before uploading to the W7DK website and to the QRZ.com site as well.

Times have certainly changed!



One of the other things that caught my eye, not just with this particular issue but with many issues going back to the beginning of *The Bark* in January 1964, are *advertisements*! It seems strange today to picture ads being present but the reality is for the bulk of the time the newsletter has been in existence, it was partially supported by ads. Not only that, there was even an "Advertising Committee" Chair—Shirley N7QHW. Of course, the rules for a 501(c)(3) charitable organization have likely changed a lot since then. We're no longer allowed to sell advertising space. But it is always fun and interesting to read the nostalgic old ads you can find in the older *Logger's Bark* newsletters from a long time ago. -Dave W7UUU

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# HAM RADIO WORLD NEWS

Amateur radio events from *around the world*



Web

## FCC OPENS COMMENT PERIOD ON DEREGULATING EVERYTHING

By Lance Venta, [Radio Insight Daily](#)

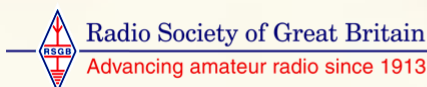
FCC Chairman Brendan Carr is opening a new docket "In re: Delete, Delete, Delete," seeking comment on "every rule, regulation, or guidance document that the FCC should eliminate for the purposes of alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens."

Among the criteria that Carr is seeking comments on are cost-benefit considerations, experience gained from the implementation of the rule, marketplace and technological changes, regulation as barrier to entry, changes in the broader regulatory context, changes in, or other implications of, the governing legal framework, and other considerations relevant to the retrospective review of Commission rules.

Carr stated, "Under President Trump's leadership, the Administration is unleashing a new wave of economic opportunity by ending the regulatory onslaught from Washington. For too long, administrative agencies have added new regulatory requirements in excess of their authority or kept lawful regulations in place long after their shelf life had expired. This only creates headwinds and slows down our country's innovators, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. The FCC is committed to ending all of the rules and regulations that are no longer necessary. And we welcome the public's participation and feedback throughout this process. The American people expect and deserve a government that will efficiently deliver great results. We are committed to doing exactly that at the FCC," Chairman Carr added.

The full public notice [can be read here](#).

## RSGB TO ACTIVATE IARU CENTENARY SPECIAL CALL SIGN



March 7, 2025

As part of the celebrations of the centenary of the International Amateur Radio Union, the RSGB will be activating the call sign **GB0IARU** during the month of April 2025.

If you would like to be an activator, you need to be an RSGB member with a Full Licence, as UK licence conditions only allow Full Licenses to operate club call signs. If you would like to take part, please send an email to [contestclub@rsgbcc.org](mailto:contestclub@rsgbcc.org).

You will be invited to join a discussion group which will be used to provide you with all the information that you will need. You will have to join the RSGB Contest Club in order to use the call sign as **GB0IARU** is linked to the Contest Club's call sign **G6XX**. Foundation and Intermediate licensees will be able to take part under supervision.

You can find detailed instructions about operating with GB0IARU on the [RSGB website](#). For QSL information please see [QRZ.com](#)





# ARRL NEWS & VIEWS



W1AW

## Dayton Hamvention 2025 Award Winners Announced

03/12/2025 ARRL, Inc.

The recipients of the 2025 Dayton Hamvention® Awards were announced on March 11, 2025. “The selection process was highly competitive, given the outstanding quality of nominations submitted this year. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the winners for 2025,” said Dayton Hamvention Awards Chair Michael Kalter, W8CI.

### Technical Achievement Award:

#### Dr. Kristina Collins, KD8OXT

Dr. Kristina Collins, **KD8OXT**, serves as the Chief Operations Scientist for the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) Personal Space Weather Station Network. In this role, she collaborates with citizen scientists to pinpoint significant events, organize campaigns, and ensure PSWS data is validated and curated for scientific purposes. Listeners can hear her voice on WWV at 8 minutes past the hour and WWVH at 48 minutes past the hour, where she introduces the test signal for the WWV/H Scientific Modulation Working Group.

Dr. Collins has been instrumental in organizing numerous workshops through HamSCI and has guided many undergraduate and graduate students in

radio science projects, including instrument deployments, eclipse campaigns, and data analysis. She is a dedicated member of the Case Amateur Radio Club, W8EDU, working alongside her colleagues to integrate amateur radio into university teaching and research.

At the Space Science Institute, Dr. Collins employs virtual reality and sonification in her research to explore geospace and other interdisciplinary scientific questions. Her primary research interests lie in using open-source hardware and software to enhance participation and accelerate progress in science and engineering.

### Special Achievement: Julio Ripoll, WD4R

Julio Ripoll, **WD4R**, received his first amateur radio license in 1977. His fascination with hurricanes began in childhood, sparked when Hurricane Betsy in 1965 damaged his family's home in Miami, Florida, causing water to pour into his bedroom. In 1980, Dr. Neal Frank, then director of the National Hurricane Center (NHC), requested an amateur radio station within the NHC to facilitate communication with the Caribbean during hurricanes. Julio was chosen for this important task. **W4EHW** (now **WX4NHC**) handled its first hurricane that year, and Julio's initial two-year assignment with the NHC



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# ARRL NEWS & VIEWS



W1AW

has since extended to 45 years, covering over 100 hurricanes.

In 2010, shortly after the Haiti earthquake, Ripoll was tasked with setting up and managing operations between the University of Miami (UM) Hospital in Florida and the UM field hospital in Haiti. He swiftly coordinated with US and Haitian officials, organizing a team of amateur radio operators from across the US to run HH2/WX4NHC in Haiti. Beyond the field hospital, the team provided vital communication links to the US Navy hospital ship Comfort, facilitating helicopter and speed-boat patient transfers that saved many lives. Julio and his team's use of amateur radio in public service demonstrated significant merit, earning high regard for amateur radio capabilities.

## Club of the Year: RV Radio Network (RVRN)

The RVRN's roots date back over 40 years to a chapter of the Texas Good Sam Club, which included a few ham radio operators. These hams started a net that drew in other Good Sam RVers from neighboring states, leading to gatherings at campgrounds where their fellow net members lived. The net quickly outgrew the Texas chapter, gaining members nationwide, and thus, the RV Radio Network (RVRN) was born. Today, RVRN boasts over 450 members.

From the beginning, the club organized activities that not only expanded knowledge of ham radio and related technology, but also allowed for the enjoyment of recreational vehicle (RV) travel and meeting fellow hams and RVers across the country.

They stay connected through various ham radio nets and meet in person whenever possible. They have 10 different HF nets each week, along with a weekly international EchoLink multi-mode net and a video net over the internet.

There are two major rallies a year featuring educational forums and seminars, tours of RV radio equipment, and antenna configurations. If there's an interesting industry nearby, they might invite a guest speaker to share insights about their operations. And, of course, they enjoy the social events and entertainment common to typical RV rallies.

## Amateur of the Year: Neil Rapp, WB9VPG

Neil Rapp, **WB9VPG**, from Union, Kentucky, earned his Novice ticket in 1976 at the remarkable age of 5, making him one of the youngest licensed amateur radio operators ever.

Currently a visiting professor of chemistry at Xavier University, Rapp has a rich history in education. He previously taught chemistry and sponsored





# ARRL NEWS & VIEWS



W1AW

amateur radio clubs for 28 years at two high schools in Indiana, introducing over 3,600 students to amateur radio.

In 2019, Rapp co-founded and became the camp director of Youth On The Air (YOTA) Americas, which connects young amateurs with peers through activities that encourage their continued involvement in amateur radio. YOTA groups organize peer-led activities, such as summer camps, contesting opportunities, and special events for licensed amateur radio operators under the age of 26.

Rapp's contributions to the amateur radio community extend further. He is a contributing editor of the Next-Gen Contesters column in the National Contest Journal, a member of the ARISS USA Education Committee, a reporter and anchor for Amateur Radio Newsline, and the founder and former host of the Ham Talk Live! webcast.

The [2025 Dayton Hamvention®](#) will be held Friday, May 16 through Sunday, May 18, 2025, at the Greene County Fair and Expo Center, 210 Fairground Road, Xenia, Ohio.



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Dr. Kristina Collins, **KD8OXT**

[Photo courtesy of Hamvention, via ARRL]



Julio Ripoll, **WD4R**

[Photo courtesy of Hamvention, via ARRL]



Neil Rapp, **WB9VPG**

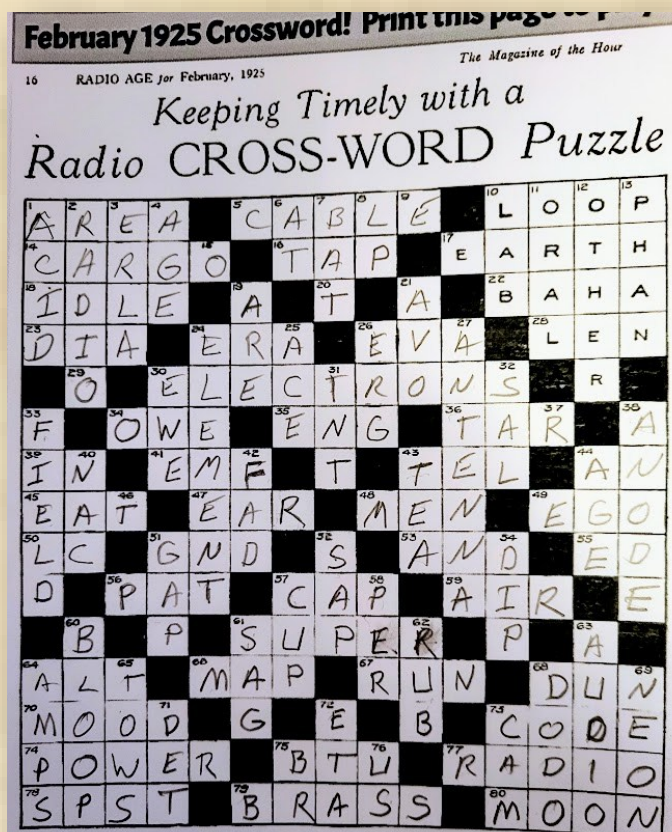
[Photo courtesy of Hamvention, via ARRL]



# THE MAILBAG

LETTERS  
To The Editor

W7UUU



## To the Editor,

My completed crossword is attached. Thanks, this was fun!

-Mike **KE9EX**

Arlington Heights, IL

Wow—another perfectly completed crossword from the February Logger's Bark... this time submitted by Mike Gilmore, **KE9EX** of Arlington Heights, Illinois. Remember: there was no answer key published—just the questions, and they were all from the 1920s! Way to go Mike—a bunch of stickers are on their way to you as your prize!! ■ -editor

## From QRZ,

First time I've read the Logger's Bark. Nice magazine! Very good articles.

John

**HC2FN**

Guayaquil, Ecuador



## From QRZ,

Nice issue! I especially liked the old photo of **K7GPK**

Michael, **WB8VLC**

Salem, OR

Thanks—**K7GPK** (SK) was Emil Koth—just a super nice guy and he was a friend to me in the club when I was a ripe old 14-year old back in 1975 or so. ■ -editor



## From QRZ,

I don't know if I'll ever get over the fame and fortune of appearing in the Logger's Bark—life changing! Despite my appearance, another superb issue from Dave and the Radio Club of Tacoma.

-Howard **WZ4K**

Newport News, VA

Hey it was our pleasure to have your mug grace the pages of The Logger's Bark, Howard! And for being our second-ever Logger's Certificate to be sent out of state (the first was to California) we now have both coasts covered! Thanks for writing in, Howard!

■ -editor







### To the Editor,

Thanks for the great article on the beginnings of the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC). My Number is 367, and when asked how I got such a low number, I said that I joined the first day it started. WRONG, but now I know why. I had *always remembered* working the holiday shift (Monday, January 2 in 2006) at the Radio Pier here in Chicago. I read about the SKCC on QRZ.com, and, signed up immediately. That's what I *remembered*.

But that's *NOT* What Happened, thanks to the "Loggers Bark" reposting the original thread from QRZ.com. The first hint was the article said "in a few days SKCC had reached 100 members." No, that should be a "few hours" to my recollection. But in reading the entire original thread, it became apparent that I had not, in fact, joined SKCC on Day One as I thought.

It turns out that the QRZ post about the SKCC was on Monday, January 16, 2006 - which was MLK Day that year and that is why I remember working a holiday shift, with plenty of time to read the Zed and join SKCC.

It appears from the QRZ thread that my application was among those which inundated the SKCC founder on that day. **Thanks so much for the inside info, and for fixing my faulty memory.**

-Mike, **KE9EX**, SKCC 367

*You're welcome, Mike! Glad the article helped put clarity back into a long-ago memory.... and here I can't even remember what I had for lunch yesterday! Thanks for the kind words and for reading The Loggers' Bark.*

■ -editor

### From QRZ,

Adam, **W2NCC**, really hit the mark with his words in the President's Corner. It's 2025, and our hobby now offers new ways of communication—often in ways people don't expect. More than just embracing the latest technology, amateur radio finds unique ways to use it differently from the general public. And, of course, technology continues to bring people closer together.

At times, concepts like continents, oceans, or distances of more than 10,000 kilometers almost seem irrelevant. It can even be a little unsettling when people realize just how close they've become—without ever seeing or physically meeting each other.

It all started with digital modes like D-Star, DMR, and C4FM, making it possible to reach from a station in Europe to a mobile operator in America as if they were next door. Conversations feel as familiar as chatting with a local friend on a neighborhood repeater—until you remember that grabbing a cup of coffee together would require crossing an ocean. For a moment, borders and obstacles disappear.

This is a major step forward in keeping people connected. New operators should consider just how close they'll become to others in this community—especially if they carry negative behaviors from the internet, like trolling or hostility. Ham radio has always been about meaningful connections, and that's what will keep it valuable for the future.

-Cornelius **DO1FER**  
Braunschweig, Germany





# THE MAILBAG

LETTERS  
To The Editor

W7UUU

**From the Editor:** This is an email sent to Rich KR7W from Pete NL7XM—Amateur Radio Callsign Historian—regarding an article submitted by Rich for publication in the [January 2025 issue of \*The Logger's Bark\*](#) (page 25). In this article, Rich couldn't recall the callsign of his Elmer, Verle Eagan [sic].

**Pete wrote to say:** "Hi Ricky. Pete here, NL7XM. I enjoyed reading your column in *The Logger's Bark* and spotted this comment from the January issue regarding your Elmer [ham radio mentor] from 1963. I'm an Amateur Radio Callsign Historian and thought I'd find it for you.

The correct spelling for him is Veryl B. Eagon, and he resided at 919 S. Fifth Street in Pasco [WA]. Veryl's callsign was W7HZT.

I figured you should know the call of the guy who made all of this possible for you. This kind of thing is important to thousands of our contemporaries. I know because I've conducted thousands of these investigations for many years with my World Class Callbook Library.

I hope this solves that nagging mystery! Vy 73

-Pete The Geek, NL7XM

Build...

## THE SCROUNGER...

In 1963, as a newly passed Novice exam Ham, my Elmer across the street, Mr. Verle Eagan, (can't remember his call sign) provided me with boxes of QST and other electronics magazines to gander at whilst I waited for my "ticket" to be delivered by the mailman. A few months later, I was WN7BDJ.

This article from Electronics Illustrated called *The Scrounger* was the impetus for my first homebrew ham project. Parts were scrounged from Mr. Eagan's vast collection of stuff. Many WN7BDJ Novice QSOs were made with my 40 Meter Scrounger - paired with a Hallicrafters S-107 coupled to a short height 40 Meter Inverted Vee antenna. My mother wasn't happy that I ruined one of her aluminum cake pans for my ham set.

-Ricky KR7W



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RETURN  
HOME PAGE





# THE MAILBAG

LETTERS  
To The Editor

W7UUU

**Big thanks to Tom “Parky” Parkinson, KB8UUZ**, who is a technical writer for [DX Engineering, Tallmadge, Ohio](#), for being the first to identify the “N” symbol below. This was part of an article on computer power supply nomenclature from the [February, 2025 edition](#) of The Logger’s Bark (p.53). It was the one symbol on the supply I was not readily able to find the definition for.

Tom received a nice supply of W7DK stickers as well as QRZ bumper stickers.

Thanks for sending this in, Tom!

-73 Dave **W7UUU**, editor



“The N-mark is Nemko's certification mark, established in 1933 as a mandatory mark for electrical products marketed in Norway. Since 1991, it has been offered as a voluntary mark and has gained worldwide recognition as a sign of compliance with relevant safety standards, especially in the IT and office equipment area”.



Photos: W7UUU

Screen capture from February Bark article

Click image to download the issue





# W7DK LOGGER'S CERTIFICATE

## Classic "first award" for Members



**HAVE YOU APPLIED** for your own W7DK Logger's Certificate?! It's FREE and it's EASY! All you have to do is work at least 10 members of the Radio Club of Tacoma, then send in your list of call signs worked, and BAM! We'll print out your certificate and get it to you toot sweet by US Mail.



**There are no confirmations required, no logs to submit, and really no rules other than the call signs you**

**submit must be**

members of the club. You may work them on HF, 2m FM, on FT8 or SSB or any other mode! In fact, one of the best ways to get your 10 contacts is to check into the weekly Tuesday Night Net on the 147.28 club repeater... every Tuesday at 7:30 PM.

This venerable award was first launched in 1957, using certificate paper printed by club member Dick Ryan, **W7RGD** using a donated printing setup.

As of the date of this publication, there have been almost 700 certificates issued, including a few reissues over the years to replace lost certificates.

The original certificates were hand-lettered by long-time RCT member Barbara Osborne, **W7UYL** (SK 2022), and all of the records were kept in a

series of recipe boxes still held by the club.

We still have a huge stash of this beautiful OFFICIAL logger's Certificate paper.... So if you do not already have yours, just shoot us an email with your list of call signs worked, and put "Logger's Certificate" in the subject line... **-editor**

*Barbara Osborne  
W7UYL in 1955  
an  
RCT USO event*



Have YOU earned your W7DK Logger's Certificate yet? We've not only issued over 660 of them over the years, but we've just issued our first two outside the local area! (**N6ACA & WZ4K**) - SEARCH YOUR LOG for Pierce County, WA and send me a list of the stations you have logged... You MAY ALREADY HAVE EARNED ONE!

**Wanna get yours? Send in those contacts!**



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By: W7UUU

Randy WB4SPB

Randy Myers **WB4SPB** really is one of the backbones of the Radio Club of Tacoma on the tech side of things. Officially, he is head of the IT Committee for the club; he also manages the club's website and NAS server capacity for important club storage needs, and he maintains the many computer systems both at the clubhouse and also at our meeting space at the South Tacoma Eagles club. But he's also very proficient at CW and heads up the Monday 7:00 PM CW net and organizes a number of CW-centric activities that happen in the course of the year—Straight Key Night, Straight Key Month, Straight Key Century Club, and other events that come along. Randy spends a lot of time assisting the Museum curator Dan KD7SV working with the old rigs—helping with troubleshooting, documenting modifications, and all things relating to our vast collection of old radios. He's one of my good friends at the club, and I'm honored to have him do all the many things he does so quietly in the background. If you have a chance to meet up with him on any Saturday Open House, don't hesitate to strike up a conversation and pick his brain about radios from the past, or anything about the W7DK website and how best to navigate it. Thanks, Randy, for all you do!





# ASK ELMER!

Mystery Elmer



## Dear Mystery Elmer,

I'm pretty new to HAM. I got my license in 2021 during Covid. I always wanted to have my HAM but what with working and family I just never had the time. But Covid gave me a lot of down time at home (I guess I was supposed to be working more but you know how that goes LOL!). Once I got my HAM I bought a nice used Icom IC7300 from a seller on QTH.com and I put up a Hexbeam antenna at 30 feet. Everything works really great. I'm only using voice right now on SSB but I have no trouble making contacts. My antenna is really in the clear and I'm on a tall hill so that helps me a lot I think. I worked a bunch of DX during a contest over the weekend. I think it was actually a DX contest.

I really want to try FT8 and FT4. I hear about this mode all the time and I want to start working with it.

But I'm told it's not really HAM radio and that it's all automatic and just a computer talking to a computer. I can't find the "truth" about this. There seem to be a lot of opinions and I am hoping for some facts.

-FT8 Wondering in Phoenix

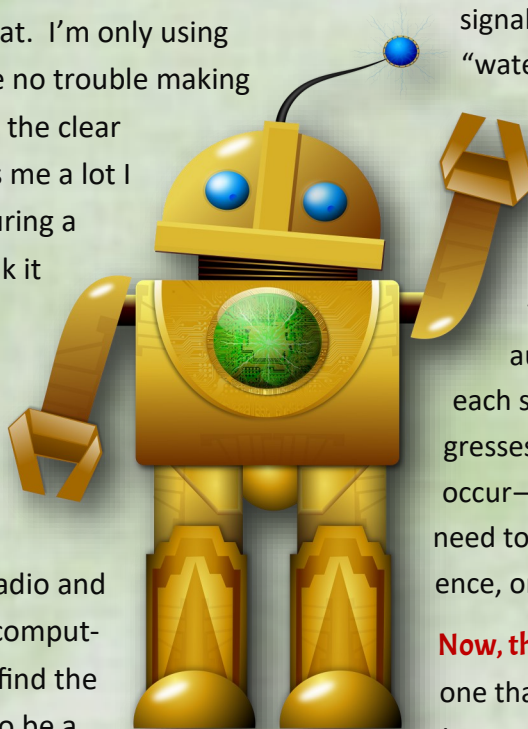
## Dear Wondering,

So let's start with "the facts". Using the original WSJT-X software, developed by Joe Taylor ([K1JT](#)) and Steve Franke ([K9AN](#)), alongside other contributors in the core team, is no more "automated" than operating SSTV (Slow Scan Television), RTTY (Radio Teletype), or PSK (Phase-Shift Keying). What this means, quite simply, is that you—as the control operator—must be present at your computer, with it linked to your radio, actively receiving signals. You must manually select a signal from the stream (often called the "waterfall") in order to initiate a QSO.

The process is entirely dependent on *you*, the operator, to work through the steps needed to complete the exchange, no matter the mode in question. It is *not* fully automated. With FT8, it's true that each stage of the sequence naturally progresses to the next, but interruptions often occur—whether due to failed decodes, the need to shift frequency to avoid interference, or other adjustments.

**Now, the software you're referring to**—the one that enables true "robotic" operation—is something altogether different. It's a separate application (easily found with a quick

online search, though I'd rather not be an accessory to its spread), that was created by a ham in Poland. This modified branch of WSJT-X introduced functionality allowing for *fully unattended* operation—automatic CQ calling, automatic responses, and an endless cycle of QSOs.







# ASK ELMER!

Mystery Elmer



**It's this offshoot "robot" program, and those who use it, that have given FT8 a poor reputation as "computers talking to computers."**

There's at least one well-known DXpedition group that openly runs as many as nine unattended computers around the clock, racking up QSOs and then charging £4 a pop for confirmations on LoTW. Frankly, I find this sort of operation not only disgusting but also legally questionable for hams in the U.S., where a control operator must be present at all times. And really, if you're just sitting there the entire time, what's the point of letting a bot do the work for you?

**If you're using WSJT-X (not the Bot version) as it was intended and treating it like any other digital mode—RTTY, SSTV, PSK—you're doing nothing improper.**

More than that, you'll quickly discover that FT8 is not the hands-off, fully automated experience some critics claim it to be. In fact, it can be far more challenging than people assume. Just because the mode is exceptionally efficient at pulling out weak signals doesn't mean it's somehow "less than" proper amateur radio. At the end of the day, the naysayers can grumble all they like—FT8 is here to stay.

**One final point**—about the term "HAM." I've left your usage unchanged, but it's worth noting that "ham" is neither an acronym (despite persistent myths to the contrary) nor a noun in that context. One does not "get their HAM"; rather, they earn their *ham radio licence*. No offence intended—it's just a good opportunity for a bit of clarification whilst we're on the subject. Thanks kindly for writing in.

*-UK-based Mystery Elmer #5*

**Dear Mystery Elmer,**

I've been put down in the eHAM and QRZ forums (I'm an ex-CB'er but a long-time ham) because I like to say "SWRs" instead of just SWR. Ever since I was a kid growing up with Dad and his CB rigs and such that we talked about SWRs. I suppose maybe it's just CB lingo that hangs on with me. But hey at least I don't have to pretend I have a southern drawl on the radio anymore LOL! So tell me what's so wrong about saying SWRs?

**-Ex-CBer**

**Dear Ex See Bee,**

This is a fun question! In the ham world: *no*, you should probably *not* say "SWRs" - just leave it at SWR and you won't get any flack. HOWEVER, adding that "s" is actually *proper English* in some cases, believe it or not! Say for example you tested your new antenna at 3 different frequencies. Each time you tested it, you measured your SWR (Standing Wave Ratio, a measure of reflected power). At the lowest end of the band you got, say, 2.1:1 and then at the dead center of the band (where you trimmed your antenna to resonance) you got a perfect 1:1 and finally at the highest end (frequency) of the band you measured 2.5:1—what you would then have are *three* different "Standing Wave Ratios" with which to judge your antenna. Abbreviated, that would in fact be, SWRs! So despite the distaste to many hams hearing SWRs, it's *technically* not wrong to add that "s" after SWR in certain circumstances. It's simply the proper English *plural* of SWR (but still—*don't do it!*).

*-Mystery Elmer #2*





# THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR



W7DK

April 2025						
March		April, 2025			May	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 07:30pm 2 Meter Net 147 ...	2 07:00pm Board meeting	3 06:00pm HF Night at the ...	4	5 08:00am Technician Clas ... 10:00am Open House
14 March	March	8 07:00pm VE License Exam ... 07:30pm 2 Meter Net 147	9	10 06:00pm HF Night at the ...	11	12 10:00am Open House 01:00pm General meeting ...
6 08:00am Technician Clas ...	7 07:00pm Extra Class	15 07:30pm 2 Meter Net 147 ...	16	17 06:00pm HF Night at the ...	18	19 10:00am Open House
13	14	22 07:30pm 2 Meter Net 147 ...	23	24 06:00pm HF Night at the ...	25	26 10:00am Open House
20 10:00am POTA Lake Samma ...	21	29 07:30pm 2 Meter Net 147 ...	30	May	May	May
27	28					

Recurring Special Contests All Categories ...

Click map to view on W7DK.org with active links!

## Did You Know??

On April 30, 1789, George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States at Federal Hall in New York City. Dressed in a dark brown suit, he took the oath of office on a Masonic Bible administered by Chancellor Robert R. Livingston. Following the oath, Washington delivered his inaugural address in the Senate chamber, expressing his anxiety over leading the new nation. The ceremony concluded with a service at St. Paul's Chapel. This event set enduring precedents for future presidential inaugurations.





The Margie Chavis

K7AMJ 1966

50th Anniversary

Scrapbook: Part Two

W7UUU



IN 1966 MARGIE  
CHAVIS, K7AMJ (SK)

put together a  
wonderful

### 50th Anniversary

scrapbook of W7DK club news clippings, notable events, photos, etc. This monthly column will run for just a few issues, and feature selected items from the scrapbook just for a glimpse into the club's past. Even those readers who are not a member will still find enjoyment in reading about historical ham radio tidbits from more than half a century ago.

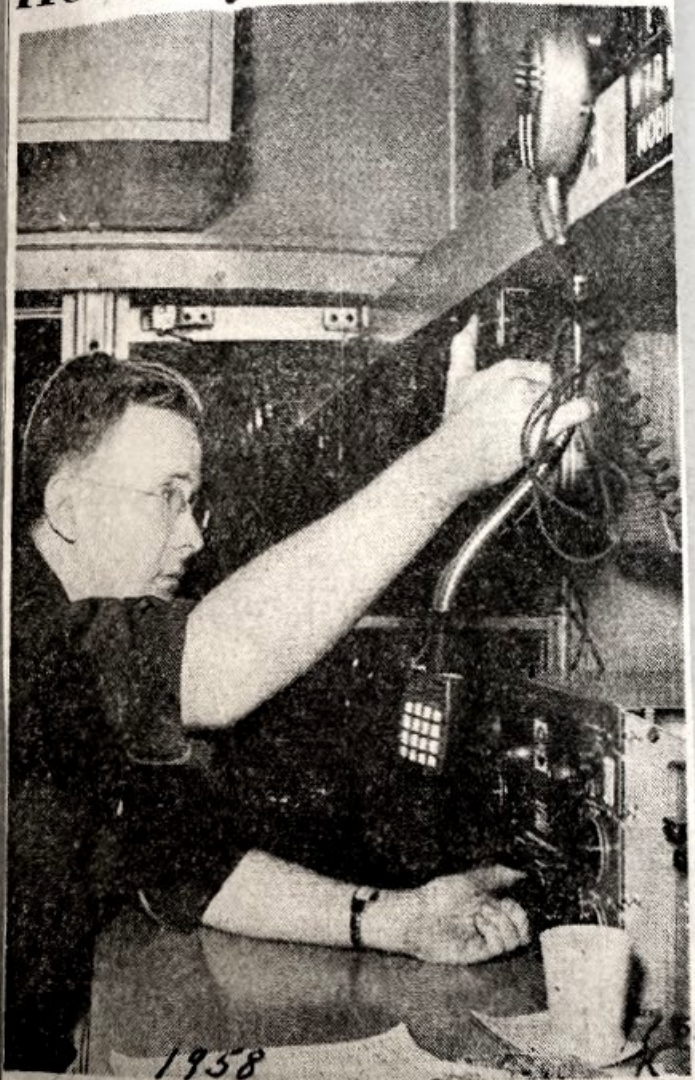
—editor

### THE SOVIETS LAUNCHED

Sputnik-I in October of 1957 and for most of that month, it orbited the earth transmitting a cryptic beeping signal that shocked the world. No one knew what, if anything, the beeping signal could mean. The dual frequencies of 20 and 40 MHz made it very easy for radio amateurs around the world to tune in and hear the signal. On an unknown date during that time, Cliff Osborne W7MFG was one of many hams who recorded the “beep beep beep” equating to three Morse dots. Cliff and his team (including fellow RCT members Bob Churchward W7RXS, and John Kelley W7KKN) were featured in the Tacoma News Tribune showcasing this event. The 1958 date is surely publishing date. To hear a recording of Sputnik, just click [HERE](#).

—Dave W7UUU

## 3-Dot Satellite Signal Heard by Local 'Hams'



TACOMA'S CLIFF OSBORNE LISTENS TO RUSSIAN SATELLITE  
Beep-Beep-Beep. That's it! We're hearing it.

Ham radio operators in Tacoma and Olympia picked up the cryptic three-dot signal of the Russian earth satellite several times yesterday. The signal, though partially obscured by interference, was unmistakably identified by three operators on the Tacoma Civil Defense Mobile Unit, Cliff Os-

burne, Bob Churchward and John Kelley. They verified their identification with Gene Colson, Olympia ham operator, who got a good tape recording of the high-pitched dot-dot-dot signal. The Tacoma operators were able to pick up the signal several (Continued on Page 14)





**THIS MONTH'S FRUGAL HAM PRESENTS A GIZMO** **MANY HAMS** probably already know about but is pretty new on my radar. It's the RTL-SDR.com Model V4 SDR USB receiver—a very inexpensive but amazingly versatile software-defined receiver designed for a wide range of applications. It builds upon the previous versions from RTL-SDR, incorporating improved components and features over the Model V3 version it replaces, that enhance its performance and usability—expanded band range being high on the list.

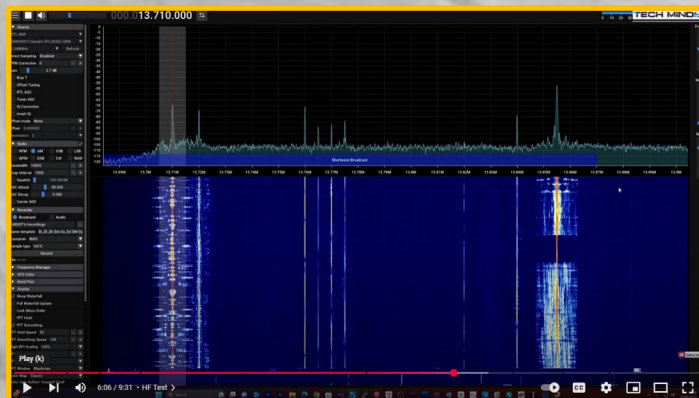
At its core, the V4 model uses their improved R828D tuner, replacing the older R820T2 used in previous iterations. This change provides better sensitivity and overall reception capabilities, particularly in the VHF and UHF bands. Before, in order to receive HF and low bands, you had to first use an upconverter. But that's now built-in with the Model V4 receiver.

**The new dongle supports a frequency range from** approximately 500 kHz to 1.76 GHz, making it suitable for monitoring everything from low-frequency beacon stations, AM broadcast, HF amateur radio signals (with direct sampling mode) to FM broadcast stations, airband communications, public safety channels, VHF and UHF ham bands, and even some satellite signals.

**One of the key improvements** in the V4 model is its enhanced filtering and improved low-noise amplifier (LNA) design. They've also added a built-in "bias tee" that allows users to power active antennas directly from the dongle. That (ostensibly) gives it better performance with small portable antennas, although I've not yet tried that.

Another major advantage of this version is its improved stability and reduced spurious signals compared to earlier models, which helps provide a cleaner listening experience. In viewing some comparative YouTube videos, the visible distortions in the waterfall display over V3 and earlier versions is very apparent.

**Setting up the RTL-SDR.COM V4 is relatively straightforward**, although (at least for me) is still somewhat intensive and not entirely "plug and play". The device requires a standard USB connection on the host PC and works with multiple operating systems including Windows, Linux, and macOS. Software installation is multi-step but pretty easy, with compatible programs such as SDR# (SDRSharp), HDSDR, and GQRX readily available for use. I've just acquired the SDR and haven't yet fully installed it but plan to use SDR++ initially, based on several videos I've seen that make it seem pretty clean and easy to set up.







**Most of these SDR software packages** offer reasonably intuitive graphical interfaces, making it easy to tune signals, adjust filtering, and visualize spectrum activity. Additionally, online tutorials and a strong community of users help simplify the learning curve for newcomers (like me!). As with so many things these days, YouTube is your friend when it comes to reference materials and gaining “how to” insights.

For hams, the V4 receiver is a cool tool for monitoring virtually all of the ham bands regardless of mode. While it is a receive-only device, it provides a fun and portable way to check in on the vast sea of radio signals on your laptop, even when traveling (which is in fact my plan).

**With its ability to demodulate AM, FM, CW, SSB,** and other modulation types, it’s plenty versatile for most any monitoring a traveling ham would want to do. Additionally, by using third-party software, users can decode digital signals such as FT8, APRS, ADS-B, and more, further expanding its usefulness.



**I’ve planned for this article to be in two installments:**

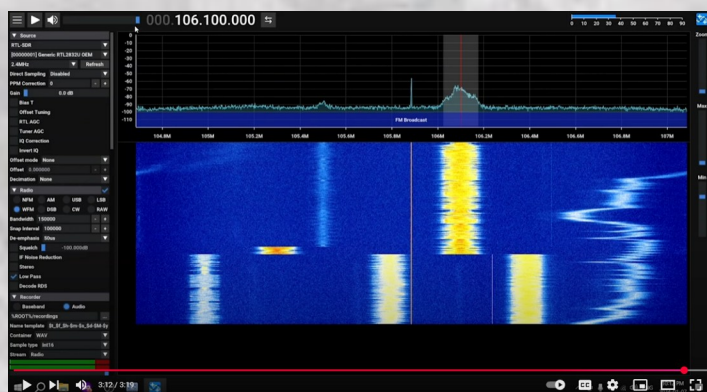
the first being this one, where I just lay out the device, how it works, etc. and next month will be a more in-depth review of setup, installation of the software (on a Windows 11 laptop), and how it works out in use—especially with the included portable antennas.

**The photo below shows the entire package—\$44.95**

from Amazon gets you the RTL-SDR.com V4 SDR dongle, a table-top antenna mounting tripod, a screw-on antenna adapter, and two different length sets of collapsible antennas. I have no grand expectations for the antenna performance—but I’m sure for local AM and FM broadcast, and reception of local 2m and 440 repeaters, they should prove adequate. Despite being retired, I still travel a bit and plan to take this compact kit in my laptop case to “listen around the bands”.

Be watching for the May issue of *The Logger’s Bark* for photos and details of the setup and operation of the RTL-SDR.com model V4 SDR receiver.

*-Dave W7UUU*



*Screenshot of the SDR++ software waterfall display*



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

But first.... A little *about* the Clubhouse



W7DK

**THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA IS UNIQUE** not only in its age (continuously operating since October 1916) but also in its ownership of an actual clubhouse and adjacent parking lot. The current clubhouse was purchased by members in 1957 (the previous clubhouse was purchased in 1927!) and has been maintained on this site ever since. But it takes time, talent, and treasure to keep this dream a reality. Club membership is one of the solid ongoing means with which the club maintains not only members to help with the upkeep, but to also raise the capital that's required to keep our clubhouse in tip-top shape.

If you are not yet a member, please consider joining—even if you're not local! If you enjoy reading The Logger's Bark from afar, you can be a part of our club just as if you were here. And if you are a local, please consider contributing your own skills and effort to keep this club the wonderful thing it is. Ask any officer how you can help. Thanks to all our loyal members! -Dave W7UUU

**JOIN NOW!**

All photos this page provided by RCT Archives





# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



March 1, 2025—new flag affixed to the refurbished flag pole in the front yard of the clubhouse



Warren **NG7G**, Paul **N7OSS**, and Red **WB7EC** continue gearing up for Mike & Key Hamfest this month



Rich **KR7W** stops by his old haunt (the W7OS Museum where he was curator for years) while visiting from Idaho



“The Gang’s all Here” in the Classroom on March 1, 2025—President Adam **W2NCC** lower right

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send ‘em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



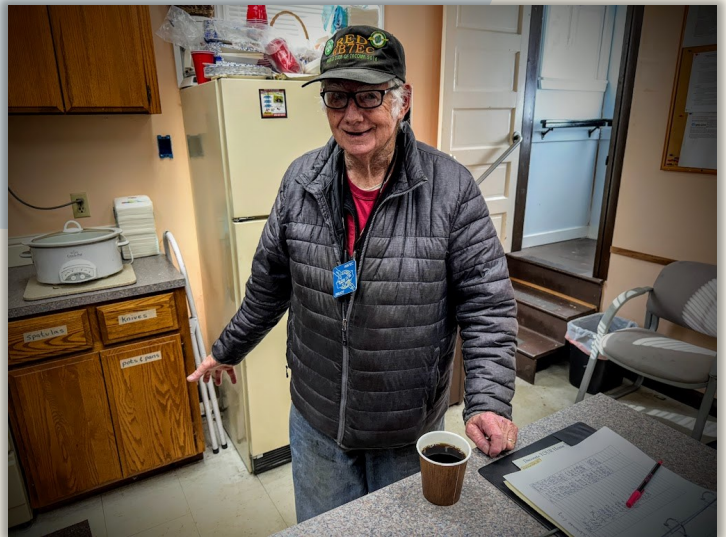
Greg **KT1A** and Mike **W7MKE** observing SSB operation during a DX contest



Brad **KK7YQC** and Chef Paul **W7PFU** catch up in the classroom on a Saturday Open House day



Membership manager Mike **W7XH** stops by the kitchen for a cup of coffee and a visit



PMT Manager Red **WB7EC** joins him!

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Gary **WG7X** works an SSB DX contest while Mike **W7MKE** looks on



Nolan **K7GBM** hanging out in the kitchen



Becky **KG7FZH** and Sam **N9MII** visiting in the Oakman Library



L>R: Walt **WA7SDY**, Greg **KT1A**, Mike **W7MKE**, Gary **WG7X** all hanging out in the HF room

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



John **N1JAB** (left) visits with Stephen **AD7AB** outside the kitchen on a sunny Saturday open house



Ben **K17JKX** joined the RCT back in 2023 and stopped in today to pay a visit



Another "Google Photos Popout" image they like to randomly insert... so what the heck? This is David **AC7KP**



David **AC7KP** contemplates his "Popout Self" But a couple of weeks later! Time travel?

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Mike **W7MKE** (left) and Dave (**W7UUU**, taking photo) get to know new members Rik **N7RIK** and Brian **KK7SSL**



Anne **N7ANN**'s photo caught the introductions from the other side—Welcome Rik and Brian!



Wade **W7ITL** shows the club his ATV setup using an iPhone to send video to his group's ATV server



Warren **NG7G** stops by on The Ides of March for a visit on W7DK Open House Day

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

Photos on this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU** except as noted



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Dave **W7UUU** checks out the PMT situation with President Adam **W2NCC**—photo by Anne **N7ANN**



Noel **K7GBM** shares a smile with Anne **N7ANN**



*BIG crowd in the W7OS Museum today! Wow!  
Standing room only!*



*Across the hall, the HF room was pretty quiet.  
L>R: Walt **WA7SDY**, Al **N7OMS**, Gary **WG7X**  
and Nolan **K7GBM***

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

Photos on this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU** except as noted



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK

Happy Birthday

422	Evan Moyer	KI7ZEW
434	Jan Gilbertson	K7HTU
750	Jerry Hathaway	K7ETU
770	Jeffrey Hanson	W7JFF
1109	Harry Wong	N7DOE
2107	Alan Ferguson	N7OMS
2346	Donald Tjossem	W7DRT
2468	Greta Hewlett	KF7KSW
2640	Daniel Vacanti	KD7SV
2721	Kathryn Antonetti	K7USR
2796	Wade Marshall	W7ITL
2851	John Marsden	KI7YRC
2900	Richard Frankenberg	KI7HAE
2918	Ted Williams	KJ7KPI
2973	Robert Bright	No Call
2981	David Knechtel	WA7RNX
2983	Kevin Cummings	W7HUA
2986	Robert Groger	W7WVC
3020	Maxton Mackersie	KK7HAY
3021	Matthew Smiley	KK7GZM
3084	David Morse	K7FI
3107	Andrew Peabody	KK7PMF
3133	Ransom Rumley	KK7RHR
3134	Jason Stonefeld	KG7KOY
3154	John Burns	N1AB
3162	Michael Hitchcock	KD5YIJ
3171	William Brown	KK7VUG
3176	John Twilley	KC2ELS
3178	Kelly Deriso	KJ7RIA
3187	Kelly Murphy	KK7WSN
3195	Jiro Oi	KW6A
3204	Spencer Taylor	KK7YEG



Tree trimming day at the Clubhouse.

Gary **WG7X** (above) and Brad **KK7YQC**

“team up to clean up”





# CLUB ACTIVITIES

## Thursday HF Nights

THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA INC

**MOST EVERY THURSDAY EVENING** from 6PM until 9PM, the Radio Club of Tacoma opens the HF room for one-on-one training time. Saturdays are a great time to come see the clubhouse and socialize, but often it's tough to get "quality time" with the radios. This weekly event is open to all—members and non-members alike. There is always at least one Extra Class operator on hand with a solid knowledge of the Icom and Flex radios in use, as well as the antenna patch bay, amplifiers, and tuners. Even non-licensed "hams to be" can take a hand operating under the tutelage and watchful eye of an experienced "Elmer" on hand to show the ropes. Come on by any Thursday! ■ -editor



David AC7KP and Gary WG7X at a late February Thursday night HF get-together



Jessica KK7VHH at a recent 4th Wednesday HF night



Adam W2NCC (left) visits with Rich KR7W in town from Idaho, paying a visit to the club HF room on a Thursday





## Open House Reminder!

**THIS IS JUST A WELCOMING & REMINDER** that the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma Clubhouse holds an open house on most Saturdays of the year (click [HERE](#) for exclusions) from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There's always a nice group of members but ALL visitors interested in amateur radio are welcome to stop by! You do not have to be a member or even a ham to visit us. Please be sure to sign the Visitor's Logbook in the kitchen, say hello to your Clubhouse Host, have a cup of coffee and a donut (always a nice assortment on hand). You may wander the building—visiting the classroom, the downstairs "shack parlor" we call The Lou Room, and of course upstairs to see the main HF room and the [W7OS Doc Spike Memorial museum](#)—a living collection of vintage gear that regularly gets on the air.

The last Saturday of every month, we hold a mini flea market where members can sell their ham gear. But even non-members are eligible to dicker for deals and take home gear. And starting around 11:30, our club Chef Paul **W7PFU** serves up free chilidogs, or sometimes burgers or spaghetti at the chef's whim. We hope to see you stop by soon!

■ -editor

W7DK Clubhouse Kitchen on a recent Saturday



## Mini-Swap Meet Monthly

**DO YOU HAVE EXCESS GEAR TO SELL?** Members of The Radio Club of Tacoma have a little perk every month with our own mini Swapmeet held in the clubhouse on the last Saturday of each month. No charge for a table—just bring your wares and set up shop! Non-members and visitors are free to stop by and see if they can pick up bargains. The club also has gear donated regularly that is made available to visitors and members alike, available for purchase via donation. And of course, as mentioned in the Open House reminder, the club chef Paul **W7PFU** cooks up chilidogs or spaghetti (whatever suits his mood!) at no charge for guests. ■ -editor





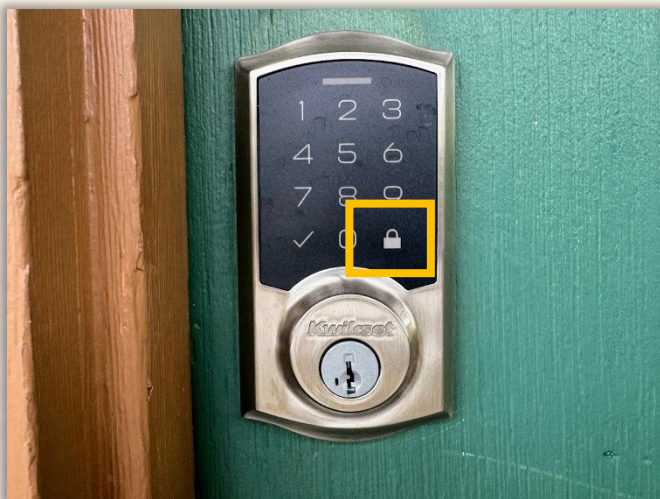


## How To Lock The Doors

**AS WAS REPORTED** in last month's Bark by our club Secretary, Gary **WG7X**, in recent months there have been reports of the clubhouse being found unattended and the doors not even locked! Obviously, this is not acceptable. It's the responsibility of the Club Hosts on Open House Day (Saturday) or those who have door and alarm codes on other days to make certain the building is secure when leaving.

**But should you be in the position of being the "last one out", you can still LOCK THE DOOR** even if you don't have the code or a key. Simply pull the door closed and push the "lock symbol". The battery-powered mechanism will then lock the door (you won't be able to get back in without the code!). This applies to both the front door and the back door. See photo below—note the "lock" button.

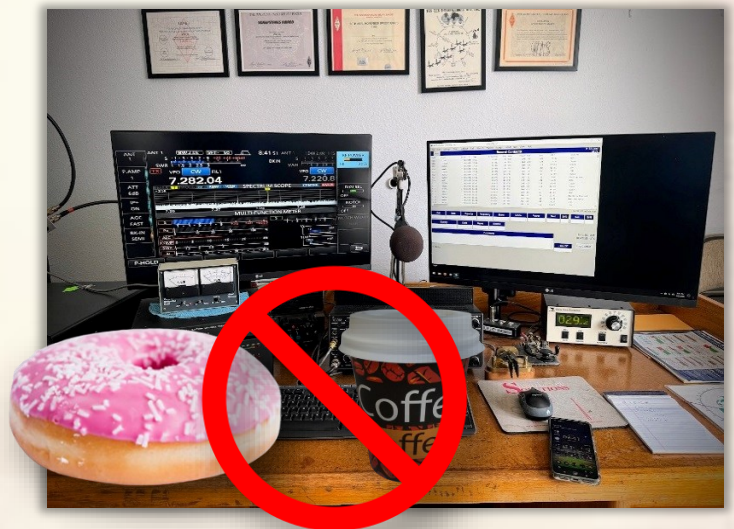
-Dave **W7UUU**



## Help Keep The Clubhouse Clean

**THIS IS JUST A GENTLE REMINDER** that the W7DK Clubhouse is for all members to use and enjoy, and is a place to put our best foot forward as a club for visitors we welcome in almost every Saturday of the year.

Please be mindful of leaving trash, empty cans or bottles, food wrappers, McDonalds bags, and whatever else. Same holds for coffee cups... we frequently see cups left on classroom tables, the kitchen counters, at the Lou Room table, and wherever else. Please just make sure to "pick up after yourself". Also, remember that liquids and radios don't mix. Please don't take cans or cups of beverages into the HF room or the Museum—just water bottles with lids or closures of some sort. And no "sticky foods" like donuts! No one wants to reach for the tuning knob only to find your sticky donut residue on it!





# SECRET AGENT HAM



Photo: Dave W7UUU



## AGENT 0073

Photo: Dave W7UUU  
Background: Public Domain Stock





I RECENTLY CAME INTO POSSESSION OF A **VERY** UNIQUE piece of radio gear—something I’ve not only never seen before, but never even heard of before! It’s the Trans World TW-100F “Fly-Away HF SSB Transceiver”. First developed under a State Department contract in 1990, this radio seems to have been sold throughout most of the 90s. I wasn’t able to locate an original unit cost, but given it’s a defense contract item, I’m sure it was many thousands of dollars each at the time.

The TW-100F is a compact, fully-transistorized frequency-synthesized 125-watt transceiver for the frequency range of 1.6 to 30 MHz with no gaps, and a frequency resolution of 100 Hz and has a built-in antenna tuner. Modes of operation include: USB, LSB, AM, CW, and (when fitted with an accessory data terminal), RTTY. Although the Trans World sources I’ve found don’t list a model number for it, there’s no shortage of evidence

that a SSB audio encryption module was available as well. It would make sense, given the intended use for a radio like this. And while espionage references are, as you’d expect, hard to find, the very nature of the TW-100F lends itself to all sorts of CIA-style clandestine operations in the darkest corners of the intelligence world.

**According to tech bulletins and such**, this radio was developed specifically for governmental and diplomatic applications. Very likely every U.S. embassy in the world was at one time equipped with a “Fly Away TW-100F”.

During my week of working with it on my own bench, I really got a feel for the target audience for this rig: non-radio people! It’s compact (fitted in a \$1000 custom-Haliburton shock-mount attaché case), can fit under the seat of any modern airliner and meet all FAA requirements, it’s powerful, and it’s very simple to operate.



Photo: Dave W7UUU



Photo: Google Maps

**Top:** This is the non-descript office park location where Trans World Communications assembled and tested the TW-100F Fly-Away Transceiver in the early 1990s in Escondido, CA.

**Left:** My somewhat *fanciful* interpretation of a typical far-away hotel or State Department deployment of the transceiver.





When you hoist the 30-pound case onto a table and release the heavy-duty catches on the lid (after dialing in your 4-digit access code to unlock it!) the first thing most ham users will spot is the “telephone-style” handset, made under contract by [Electro-Voice](#). It’s a [model H-250/U](#) and is a very common noise-canceling headset most often found in the PRC-*nnn* series of military radios.

In actual use, it works extremely well and the PTT (push-to-talk) button is conveniently mounted to allow either your first two fingers to push it if in your right hand, or the flesh below your thumb to push when held in your left. I found it extremely easy to use. The receive audio

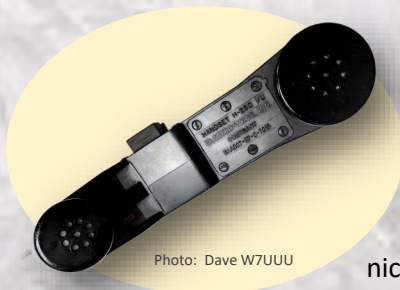


Photo: Dave W7UUU

is always present in the headset, and you can switch off the internal speaker on the radio to carry on more private communications. I would describe the receive audio of the TW-100F to be superb. It’s easily as effective as

that in most any modern ham transceiver, whether you are listening on the built-in speaker on the radio or using the handset. An excellent 2.8 KHz SSB filter is in the audio chain and is really punchy. There is no CW filter.

**Listening to the local Noontime Net on 7.284**, any station I could hear on my FTDX-101MP was fully audible and crispy-clear on the Fly-Away TW-100F.

Frequency control is where this radio departs from anything in the amateur radio world however.

### There are three primary modes of operation as follows:

- **Direct Keypad Entry**—operators can manually enter the desired frequency using the keypad, with 100 Hz frequency steps, from 1.6 MHz to 30 MHz
- **Manual Tuning**—there is a very basic “Up/Down” button set that allows something akin to “spinning the dial” - but it only has one speed: *slow*.
- **Channelized Operation**—there are 100 programmable channels to allow for quick recall of pre-set frequencies, for both simplex as well as half-duplex configurations (or “split” as hams would call it).

**Looking at the photos below**, you can see the LCD frequency (and channel) display, with the “Up Down” buttons. In Channel mode, the “Scan” button does just what you’d expect: very quickly scans through whatever number of the 100 channels has been programmed.

On the keypad, pushing “F” followed by 000 and then the frequency puts you into direct-entry mode: 072840 for example, to tune in the Noontime Net. Pressing just the “C” button invokes the Channels mode. The transceiver can operate half-duplex (“split mode” in Ham Speak). Note the decimal place on the “RX” dot.... there’s also a “TX” dot. By toggling the “F” key on the keypad, you can set the transmit frequency as well as the receive. Conceivably the split can be cross-band but that would be



Photo: Dave W7UUU



Photo: Dave W7UUU





very difficult to achieve without antenna switching options so was likely never intended to be used that way.

### The Fly-Away TW-100F Channel Mode has sub-modes:

- **Mode 1:** Full access. Operators can program and re-program channels, they can see the frequency used for each channel, and they can modify the frequency of any channel as well as tune the VFO.
- **Mode 2:** Fixed access. The memory channels have been pre-set and cannot be changed, but users are still able to see what frequency each channel is. The VFO can be tuned around bands, but for receive only. Transmit frequencies cannot be changed.
- **Mode 3:** Blind channel use only. In this mode, users can only change channels. They cannot see the frequency of a channel, nor change it. Nor can they tune the VFO even for just receiving. It's 100% channel based operation, with "blind channel data".

### These modes are selected through internal switches

within the transceiver but are far from being "user serviceable" in the field. The transceivers were most likely programmed at the tech facility in the U.S. before being shipped or carried abroad. Mode 3 would have likely been the most secure—in that the operator would not be able to reveal the frequencies even if asked or worse, under duress, to reveal comms frequencies.



**For sideband operation**, there is a clarifier knob that can be used to make an SSB signal more clearly understood. Since the tuning resolution is only 100Hz, the clarifier helps when trying to receive a station slightly off your frequency, allowing for approximately 500 Hz plus or minus variation on both USB as well as LSB. The AF gain control varies not only the internal speaker volume but also the volume of the Electro-Voice headset, and the optional headphone output. Note that the headset never turns off—receive audio is present at all times.

**The large 14-pin accessory port** essentially brings many control and audio functions outside the chassis to be used by optional accessories. These included:

- **TW5201** remote control panel
- **TW5800** telephone coupler
- **TW5500** RTTY terminal (with CRT and keyboard)
- **AT100** external automatic antenna tuner
- **TW100PP** portable 12v battery in matching case

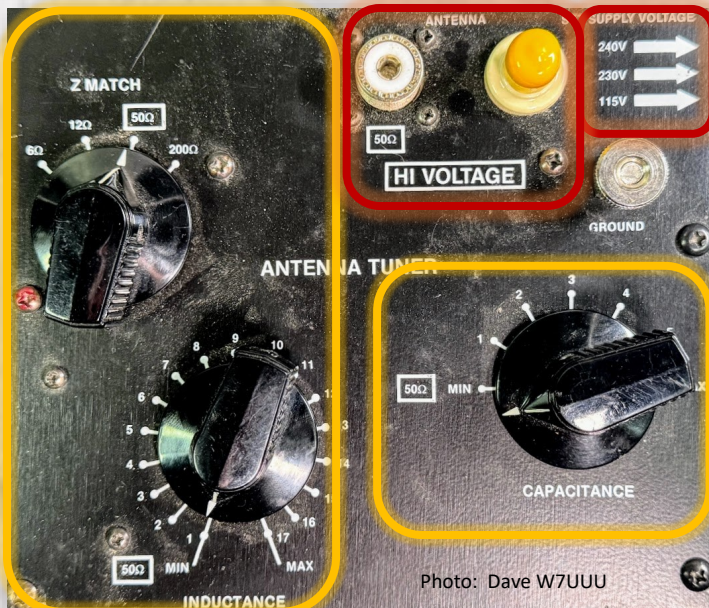
**While there is an internal AC power supply** that can be set for virtually all world voltages, 12VDC input was provided for as well, using the TW100PP external battery pack for portable operation or where AC was not available.

There is a switch to select either 125 watts output or 10 watts (presumably to conserve battery power). My unit has issues—I get 40-50 watts output on high but full 10 watts on low. But otherwise, it still works very well.

### The "Tune" switch keys the transmitter with a CW signal

and provides 10-watts of RF for adjusting the built-in antenna tuner (which is fully manual). Of course, if the user had the AT100 external autotuner option available, pressing the "Initiate" button would trigger the autotuner to find a match. Each TW-100F came with two single-





**They do make very clear** that using single-wire antennas on the yellow-capped screw terminal will potentially present very high voltages. This is spelled out not only in the manual but also on the front-panel instructions.

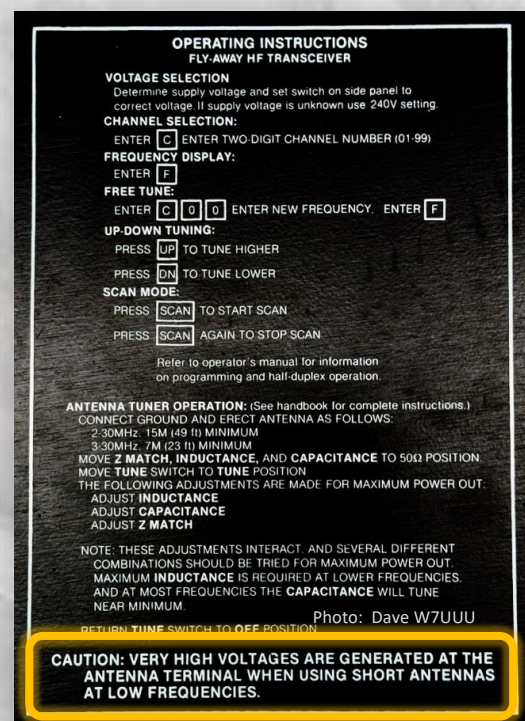
**AC Mains voltage can be selected** very easily by a three-position slide switch to the right of the tuner panel, allowing for 240v, 230v, and 115v power. In discussing this radio with a few local hams who have some knowledge of the TW-100F, I was told that the rig was not very usable in Japan, where the mains line voltage is only 95 volts AC. Of course, modern power supplies these days can handle most anything from 95 up to 240 without so much as sliding a switch. Not the TW-100F.

**One of the interesting aspects of the rig is service:** the primary circuitry for the transceiver is contained in six extremely well-built modules bolted underneath the top left panel, just above the frequency and control functions panel. These are accessed via covers in the top and bottom side of the radio when removed from the case.

wire antennas: 49 feet for low bands, and 23 feet for higher bands, as well as a ground radial. Impedances from 6 ohms to 120 ohms could be tuned with the internal tuner ... not exactly a wide range in ham radio terms!

**The most complicated and esoteric functions of this rig** for embassy workers not versed in the finer art of radio relate to the internal antenna tuner. The full operations manual for the radio attempts to cover the basics of antenna matching: Impedance, Inductance and Capacitance. They further try to simplify the antenna matching process by strongly suggesting that 50-Ohm antennas will be most effective—going so far as to highlight each of the three manual tuner controls for the “50Ω” target mark. But in the end, the user manual simply calls for the user to twiddle the controls until the meter reads as high a meter reading as possible.

**Since there is full built-in protection against high SWR,** open circuits, as well as shorts, it's about the best the manufacturer could hope for in those instances where the embassy or covert CIA team were not blessed with the AT100 autotuner or skilled with antenna work.







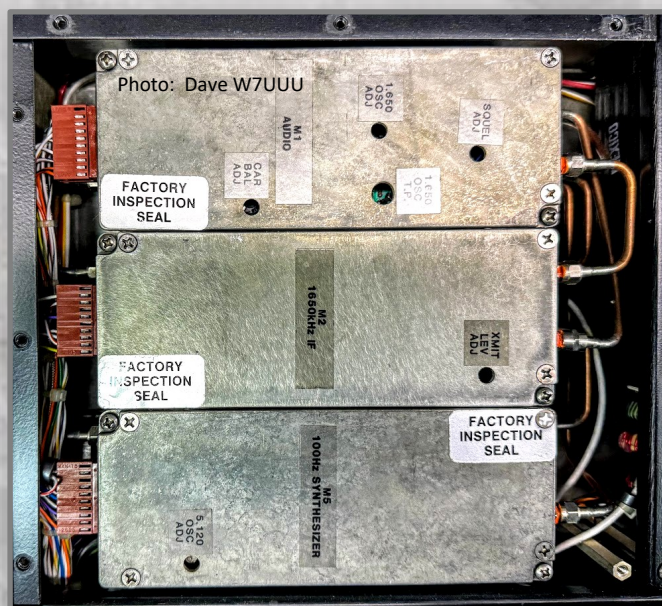
The Fly-Away TW-100F transceiver is almost 100% modular.

This was an important design consideration—knowing the end user was not particularly technical in the field of radio (think embassy workers, diplomats, and of course, spies like **James—Agent 0073**!). The [full manual for the TW-100F](#) includes detailed servicing instructions, most of which refer to module replacement and how to remove and replace them.

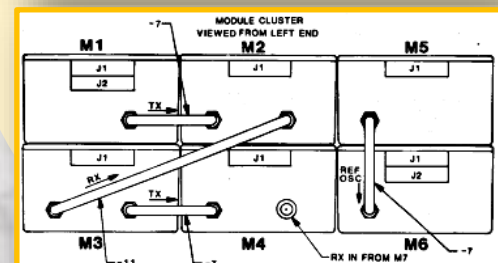
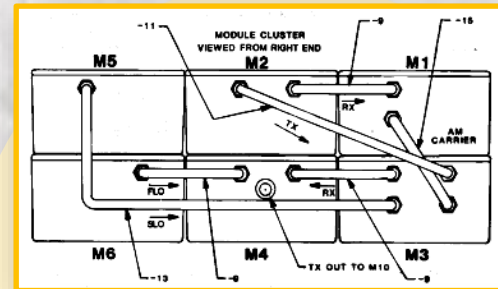
**A blurb from the manual states:**

*“The transceiver is of modular construction. If spare modules are available, **nontechnical personnel** will be able to repair most faults in the field.”*

Each fault that could typically happen has a troubleshooting process to isolate the affected module, with instructions for removing that module. I will grant however—it’s still a pretty darn technical process and not for the faint of heart! There is a high-density low-signal connector on one end of each module, and the other end is fitted with SMA-style connectors with actual coaxial hardline cables. Given that I seldom work with military-grade gear, I must assume this is fairly common. But I was still astonished to open the chassis and find all the beautifully-built and soldered “little copper pipes” that link the modules together. These “pipes” of course merely being coaxial cables that transport RF signals from one stage to the next.



I find this sort of construction to be *pure artistry*!







OF ALL THE RIGS I've had the pleasure to write about

in *The Logger's Bark*, this is probably the coolest one yet! The Trans World TW-100F Fly-Away transceiver really embodies what most of us think of as "spy radios" in the modern age.

Maybe this was the last of the real "spy radios" in that sense: expensive Halliburton attaché briefcase, secret transmission modes where the operative couldn't hand over the frequencies even if he was tortured, and the full caché that comes with a 125-watt transceiver (with 4-digit security lock!) that can be slid under the seat of any aircraft. I can even picture the "handcuffed to the agent's wrist" sort of scenario. But that's probably because I've seen too many spy movies in my time. As a ham radio



[Click image to see an 11 minute video showing it work!](#)

transceiver in the modern era, the TW-100F is sorely lacking in the features hams demand. **It wasn't aimed at hams!**

But it could certainly be used as such, and in fact during my week-long evaluation of this wonderful old radio, I did record not only an SSB contact but also a CW con-

tact with my local good friend, Jim **W7VK**. To see and hear an overview of the radio as it sat on my workbench, as well as to hear how our couple of QSOs went, click the YouTube video thumbnail link above or the transceiver image below to launch it. Thanks to Bob **K7MXE** for making this amazing radio available. And to James, agent 0073, who is not a ham—his real identity is... *classified!* - Dave **W7UUU**







## Building a 9:1 UNUN for use with EFHW Antennas

By Randy **WB4SPB**

The object of February's 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Activity Night ([4WAN](#)) was to build a 9:1 impedance transformer ([UNUN](#)) for use with an end-fed random-wire antenna. Random in this case simply means something that is *not* a multiple of  $\frac{1}{2}$  wavelength on any band where it might be used (that can cause all sorts of issues for trying to achieve multi-band use).

The transformer we kitted and assembled was described by the [Hawaiian Emergency Amateur Radio Club](#), perhaps as early as 2011, as an "End-Fed 6-40 Meter Multiband HF Antenna" ([LINK](#)). It is intended for portable use and quick deployment.

Our kit consisted of a toroid core, wire to wind the tri-filar 9:1 transformer, and fitted into a pre-drilled plastic box with needed hardware and a BNC radio connector. The materials were provided by club member Mike **W7XH**.

Eight club members attended the build in the clubhouse Classroom, with a ninth builder working from home but hanging out with us on Zoom. Once assembled, we connected each transformer to an antenna analyzer to verify that a 450-ohm resistive load would be transformed to something close to 50 ohms on various bands.

Our kit included wire for a 30-foot antenna, and 17-foot counterpoise. As explained during our January 4WAN session, in actual use, this antenna is likely to present an impedance that is quite a bit different from 50 ohms. We expect that a tuner of *some* kind will be required, and the transformer is intended to bring the impedance into a range most built-in and external tuners can handle.

At this writing, two builders are known to have deployed the antenna and made contacts, and we await reports from others. Next month we plan to build a choke balun that will be handy to use with some configurations of this antenna.

—Randy **WB4SPB**



Photos from EARC Hawaii at this [LINK](#)

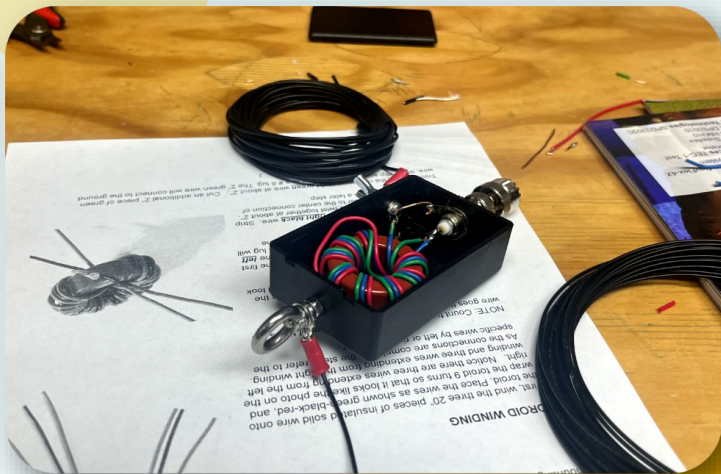






All photos provided by Adam W2NCC





All photos provided by Adam W2NCC





**JOHN L. REINARTZ MIGHT NOT BE THE MOST** recognizable name in modern amateur radio circles, but his contributions to the field are legendary. Reinartz is known as the "Father of Shortwave Radio".

In the early days of the science, he played a big role in demonstrating the practical use of *shortwave frequencies* at a time when most experts dismissed them as useless.

Many hams will recognize the phrase (based on a book title with the same name), "200 Meters and Down" by Clinton Desoto from 1936 that chronicles the evolution of early radio. 200 meters equates to 1500 KHz (near the top of the AM broadcast band) **During the first part of the 20th century, frequencies above 1500 KHz—the "shortwaves" were considered undesirable**, if not outright

useless. Those were the frequencies given over for amateur use—200 meters and down in wavelength, or 1.5 MHz and up in frequency!

Born on March 6, 1894, in Krefeld, Rhine Province, Germany, Reinartz was the eldest of seven children. His family emigrated to the United States in 1904, settling in South Manchester, Connecticut. Reinartz's fascination with radio began in 1908 when he read about wireless technology in early radio magazines. With earnings from his blacksmith job, he purchased components to build a rudimentary

spark transmitter. Using the initials "JL" as his call sign, he strung a 600-foot antenna between trees and began his early transmissions. Recall that licenses were simply not required then—anyone could fire up a spark transmitter and get on the air.



**During World War I, Reinartz trained at Camp Upton, Long Island**, where he taught Morse code to military operators. His experience there led him further into radio concepts and designs.

By 1921, Reinartz had developed the "[Reinartz Tuner](#)," (also referred to as the Reinartz Receiver) - a regenerative receiver circuit that offered improved sensitivity and selectivity over the basic crystal sets of the day.

This design became widely adopted, with thousands of radio amateurs building and modifying it. In fact, there are hams today who still build recreations of Reinartz's receiver.

**He freely shared his designs**, publishing blueprints (also known as "hookups" at that time) and construction details in various radio magazines. Unlike many early radio pioneers, he wasn't out to make a killing selling radios—but rather, he was focused on getting more folks on the air at least just listening.





**While others focused on longwave communications,** Reinartz turned his attention to shortwave frequencies above 1.5 MHz.

His tuner's regenerative feedback mechanism significantly enhanced signal reception, a principle still relevant in how its emulated in modern SDR (Software Defined Radio) receivers. His work laid the foundation for precise tuning techniques, improving frequency stability and selectivity—critical aspects of pretty much all radio today—amateur or commercial.

**On November 27, 1923, Reinartz participated in the first successful two-way transatlantic communication on shortwave frequencies.** Operating under the call sign **1XAM** in Manchester, Connecticut, he, along with F. H. Schnell **1MO** in nearby Hartford, exchanged messages with M. Léon Deloy **8AB** in Nice, France. The CW transmitter, operating at approximately 100 meters (around 3 MHz), used a Reinartz-designed circuit featuring a Westinghouse 50-watt tube (exact tube number not recorded).

Just as an aside, most hams (myself included) don't usually think of 1.5 MHz, much less 3 MHz to be "shortwaves" but indeed they are.

Reinhart's team's achievement proved that low-power shortwave transmissions could reliably span oceans, challenging the prevailing belief that *only* longwave signals were viable for long-distance communication. Reinartz's work became a cornerstone of modern HF propagation theory and radio engineering.

Between 1923 and 1924, Reinartz conducted addi-

tional experiments to understand shortwave propagation. He compiled thousands of reports from stations worldwide, carefully analyzing how signals behaved under different conditions.

**His groundbreaking theory—what we now call "skip propagation"—proposed that radio waves reflected off the ionosphere, enabling long-distance communication with relatively low power.**

**Reinhart's daylight communication experiment** on December 21, 1924, proved that 20-meter waves (14 MHz) could carry transcontinental signals even at noon, contradicting earlier assumptions that nighttime was required for long-range shortwave operation. This discovery laid the foundation for today's HF band allocations and propagation forecasting. Needless to say, the 20m band has been the *number one* mainstay of amateur radio DX ever since that date, 101 years ago this year. Regardless of sunspot conditions, 20-meters is always open to



*Reinhart around 1923 making contacts and observing radio propagation characteristics of different shortwave bands. On top was an early version of his receiver, with a homebrew transmitter in the lower cabinet.*

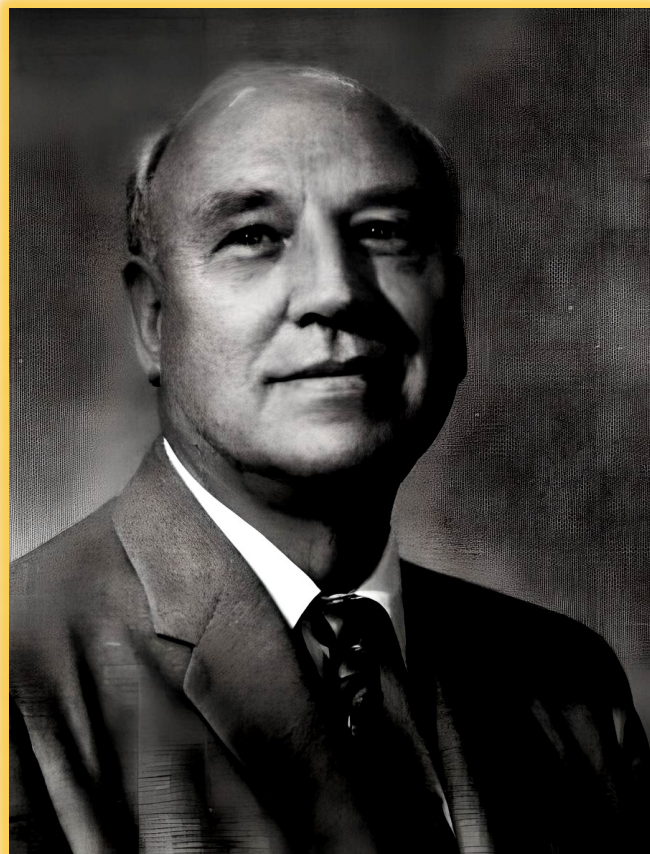




somewhere on the earth for virtually everyone.

**In 1925, Reinartz's expertise was sought for the Navy-MacMillan Arctic Expedition**, a groundbreaking mission that combined aviation, exploration, and radio technology. He designed and built the radio equipment used aboard the *Bowdoin* and operated (by others, including Don Mix, **1TS**) under the call sign WNP (Wireless North Pole). His transmissions from Etah, Greenland, marked the first recorded use of shortwave radio for polar expedition communications.

**Reinartz's Arctic work had significant technical challenges**, including dealing with poor ground conductivity in permafrost conditions. He refined counterpoise grounding techniques and experimented with



antenna efficiency to ensure reliable communications. His meticulous engineering enabled daily radio contact with the outside world, providing critical updates to the U.S. Navy and National Geographic Society. Among those who copied his transmissions was a young [Arthur Collins](#)—later the founder of Collins Radio of ham radio fame—who skipped school to receive Reinartz's signals.

**Reinartz was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1927.** His research extended beyond amateur radio, including early work on voltage measurements in biological systems and shortwave applications for military use. During World War II, he played a key role in radar development, contributing to the design of loop antennas for microwave radar and high-frequency direction-finding technology... some of the shortest of radio waves.

After the war, he joined Eitel-McCullough (Eimac), where he worked on advanced VHF and UHF vacuum tube technology. Variometer. Reinartz also contributed to early SSB (Single Sideband) modulation techniques, improving efficiency and bandwidth use—principles that remain central to modern HF operation on the ham bands today.

**Despite all his many groundbreaking achievements**, Reinartz remained modest and largely unrecognized in his early years. It wasn't until 1964 that he received the recognition he deserved when Herbert Hoover Jr., **W6ZH**, awarded him the first-ever Hiram Percy Maxim Gold Medal (not related to the ARRL award with a similar name) for outstanding contributions to amateur radio. Reinartz also held 28 pa-



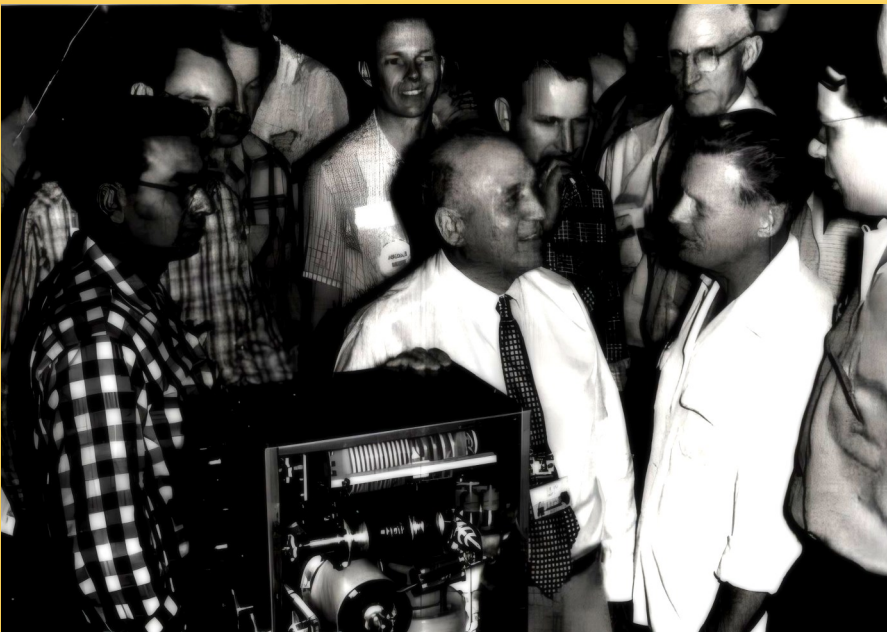


tents and was honored by numerous engineering societies.

**In his later years, Reinartz remained active in amateur radio** and held the call sign **K6BJ**, operating primarily from California. The Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club later adopted K6BJ as its club call sign in honor of Reinartz's contributions to the hobby. He was for many years an "Elmer" (mentor) to young operators, advocating for continuous experimentation and development in radio technology.

He retired from Eimac in 1965 and spent his remaining years in Aptos, California, pursuing his passion for radio and fishing. Even in retirement, he continued to inspire and support the amateur radio community, ensuring that his legacy endured.

John L. Reinartz's contributions to shortwave radio were instrumental in pushing the state of the art forward. His pioneering work in the nature and use of "shortwaves" enabled the development of international broadcasting, long-range maritime communication, and the global connectivity that amateur radio operators enjoy today. His groundbreaking insights into ionospheric propagation still guide DXers, contesters, and emergency communicators worldwide. It's amazing to think, in retrospect, that one hundred years ago frequencies above the current AM broadcast band were essentially considered useless—"give them to the amateurs" when in fact, with few exceptions, the shortwaves really do the "heavy lifting" of much that happens in the radio world today—not just amateur radio but all of radio.



*John Reinartz (in tie at center) entertaining a group of engineers with a KW SSB amplifier design using Eimac tubes—ca. 1966*

**Modern radio amateurs continue to build on his legacy**, whether optimizing antennas, experimenting with weak-signal propagation, or refining digital modes like FT8 that help maximize the subtleties of how HF propagation works. John Reinartz really is an inspiration to this day to keep on experimenting as hams.

Even though most hams today don't likely know the name John Reinartz, his legacy as the "Father of Shortwave Radio" continues to resonate, reminding us of the power of exploration, experimentation, and discovery.

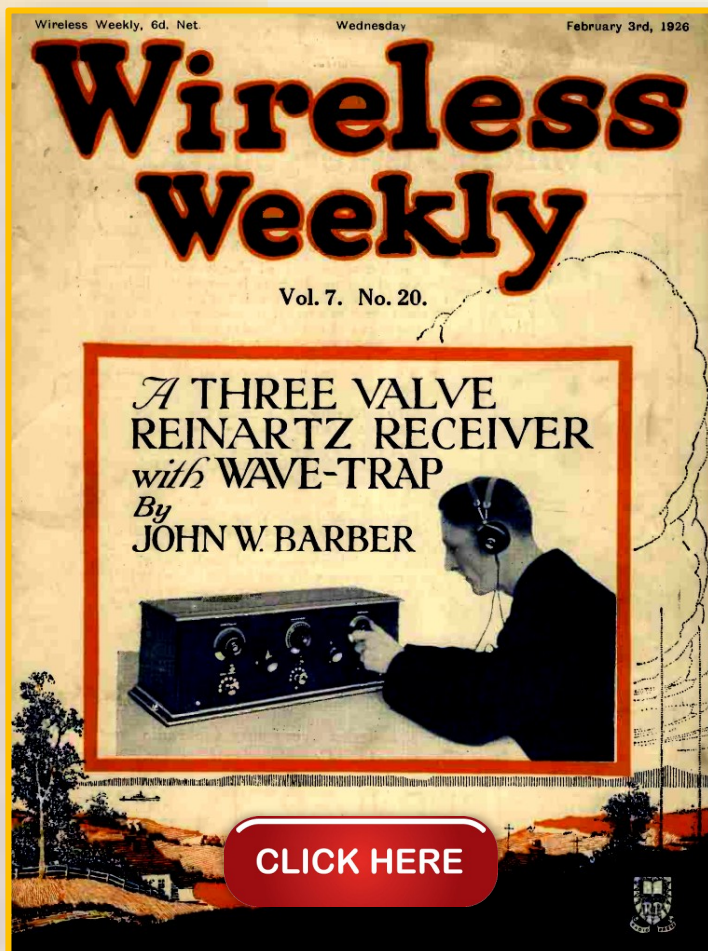
-Dave **W7UUU**



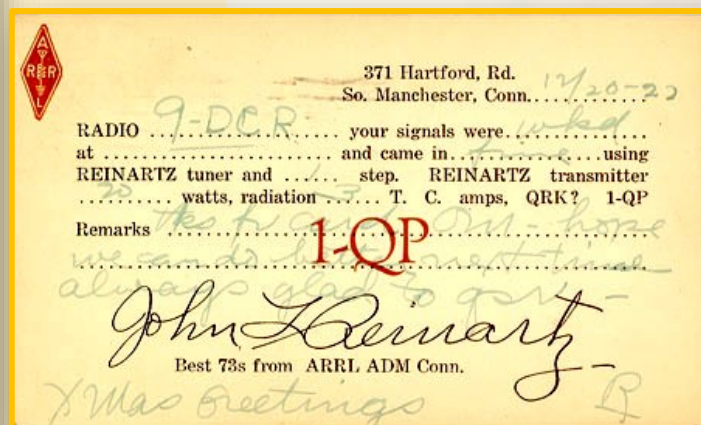


This quotation comes from an interview with John Reinartz published in the Augusta, Georgia, *Chronicle* of Thursday, May 3, 1956:

"'It's a wonderful hobby — radio,' he says. 'I can't recommend it too highly. A normal lad can build himself a receiver for as little as \$10 — and a transmitter for only \$25. If he uses the right frequencies he can cover a good part of the world with such a rig. And experience in radio can stand him in mighty good stead in this Atomic Age.'"

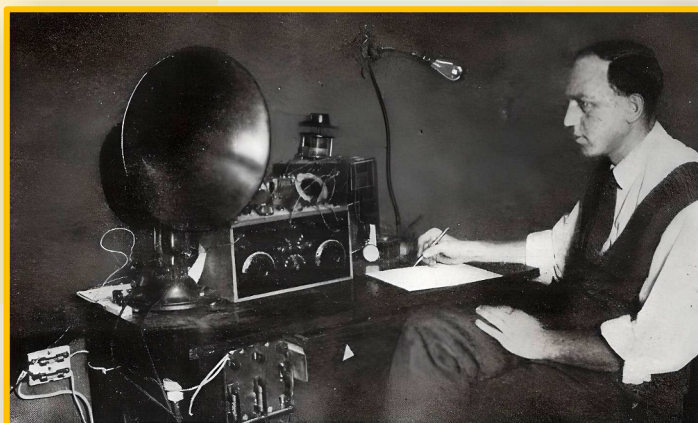


[CLICK HERE](#)



OVER THE YEARS MANY ARTICLES WERE PUBLISHED featuring a "build your own" Reinartz Receiver. Radio Age, Radio News, and Wireless Weekly (above) were quick to adopt Reinartz's work into their publications. This was really a big part of the "jumping off" point for many radio enthusiasts to leave the long waves behind and delve into the amazing world of shortwaves and amateur radio as we might know it today. Click photo to visit this magazine on the web.

-Dave W7UUU

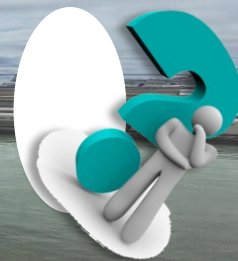


John L. Reinartz in his favorite corner waiting for the cameraman's powder to flash. If you look closely you will note that he is using a Reinartz receiver, for which we don't blame him.



# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

## Screenshot of the *very first* W7DK Website



**The Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK**  
Founded 1916

Celebrating over 80 years of public service through Amateur Radio

Welcome to the RCT's web page!

The correct time is ...

FM voice net every Tuesday at 7:30 pm on 147.55/28.  
Visitors are welcome!  
Meetings every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:30 pm.  
Visitors are welcome!

Beginning January 1, 1998, amateur radio operators licensed by the Federal Communications Commission of the United States of America will be required to do a "routine evaluation" of the strength of the RF fields around their stations.

The Amateur Radio RF Safety Calculator should be of help.  
Special thanks to Tom, N7QBH and Shirley, N7QBW for passing along this info.

**Amateur Radio Station Lightning Protection**  
by Polyphase Corp.  
Lightning here in the Northwest is not as much of a concern as it is in other parts of the country, however, you may find the information presented by Polyphase interesting!  
Part One  
Part Two

In a hurry to get that first amateur radio license?  
Check out RCT's weekend schedule!

**Upgrading?**  
Need help for those difficult license exams?  
Check out General, Advanced and Extra License Classes from Jerry, W7BUN!

**Callsign Lookup?**  
Just a callsign  
More than just a callsign  
Who was just issued a new callsign in Washington State?  
Callsign activity in other states

The Radio Club of Tacoma is a charitable, educational, and scientific tax-exempt non-profit corporation serving the Pierce County Washington area with the following programs and facilities:

- Education
- Amateur Radio License Classes
- Amateur Radio License Exams
- Scientific
- Public Service
- Clubhouse
- Repeaters
- Digital Communications
- The Jerry Seligman W7BUN Amateur Radio Station
- Emergency Power
- The Dr. F. Clifford J. "Doc" Spike W7OS Antique Wireless Museum
- Library
- Meetings
- The American Radio Relay League
- Charitable Donations
- Additional Information

The club's first recorded appearance in this new medium was captured by the Web Archive "Wayback Machine" on December 6, 1998 and can be seen at the left.

Click on the large screen capture to visit the old site directly

Re-experience all the wiggly jiggly graphics that were all the rage on this new Internet thing! I have fond memories of those days, when all of this internet stuff seemed so new.

Credit for this early club web page is given at the bottom to Roger Nace **K8RN** (whose call today is the call sign for the [Saipan Radio Amusement Club](#)) and Mike **WB7DFQ** (now **WB7W**, in Enterprise Oregon). Mike lived in Puyallup, WA at that time and was president of the club in 1996 and 1997. Roger was a long-time member of the club, having joined in 1957 (SK in 2013). Rob Lee **K7TGU** appears to have been

the IT manager of the page, handling the uploads. He's also a long-time club member, and is trustee of the W7OS Doc Spike museum call sign.

Feel free to click the image—most of the links still work and are totally safe to view!

-Dave **W7UUU**

**THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA** has certainly been around a long time (founded October 1916 and continuously operating ever since, even during the WWI and WWII shut-downs of amateur activities).

But many may not know the club was also pretty early to jump into the World Wide Web.



# THE WAY BACK PHOTO BOOTH

## Highlighted photos from the club's past

*Researched & Compiled by Dave W7UUU*

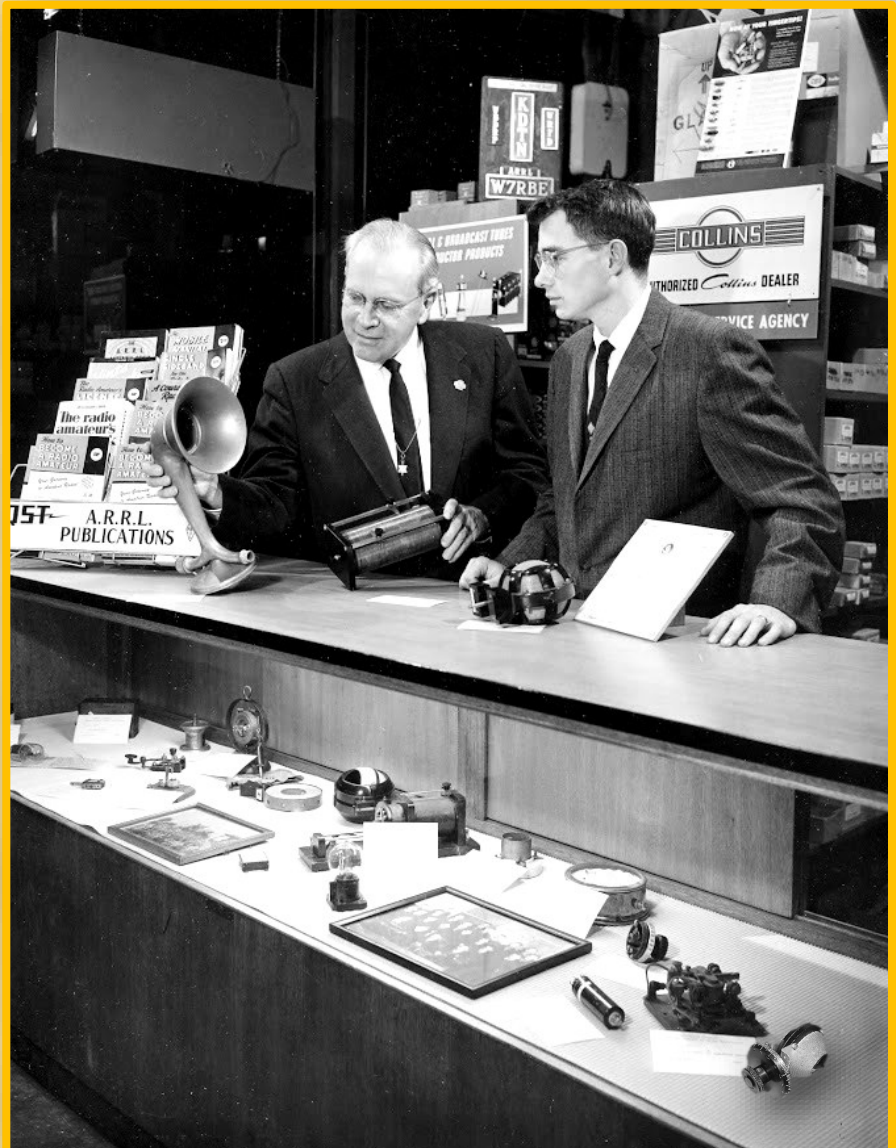


Archive Photo

**THIS PHOTO FROM THE W7DK ARCHIVE** was taken at legendary local Tacoma area electronics and ham radio store, C&G Electronics around 1958. On the left is one of the senior members of the Radio Club of Tacoma and an early “founding era” member, Doctor Clifford F. “Doc” Spike, **W7OS**. Next to him (according to a couple older members, myself included) is Cliff Osborne **W7MFG** who was a co-owner of C&G for many years.

In the display case is an assortment of QCWA items ([Quarter Century Wireless Association](#)). While simple in concept, it's something of a head-scratcher why these items would be on display at the C&G store in a prominent cabinet near the front window of the store. In Doc Spike's right hand of course is an early loudspeaker, and in his left is a receiver tuning coil from the same era. Given the date of the photo is 1958, the items on display would suggest the year being remembered was 1933 (one quarter century earlier).

If anyone seeing this has more information to provide, please click the email link at the lower right and shoot me an email. I would love to hear from you. Click the image to see a zoomable full-size version.



-Dave **W7UUU**



# RCT Bulletin Board

Posted notes and other important stuff

Here's a **useful tip** when reading the Bark: if you want to view a link, "right click" > "Open link in new window"... that way you won't lose your place in the Bark!

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The Logger's Bark does not use ChatGPT or other AI creation sites to *write articles*. Sometimes graphics are AI generated out of need for license-free images, but **NEVER** is the text... we don't allow any AI written article submissions ■ -editor

Last month's Hidden Object:



On Page 62, in the Bakelite article—in the box seats above the man's bald head



Last Month's Hidden Word:  
**Kerchunk**

It was hidden on page 79 in the Hamfests calendar section. See if you can find this month's Hidden Word and win some W7DK & QRZ stickers mailed directly to you!



RETURN TO  
HOME PAGE







**HUGE THANKS TO Mr. Bruce Horn, WA7BNM** for publishing his "Contest Calendar" for all these many years... a truly wonderful resource for finding virtually every ham radio contest on Earth that might be happening, in most any mode and most any region in the world. Follow the link to take you to the site, then sort through the various options to find the

specifics of every upcoming event. For now, here's the **WA7BNM** Contest Calendar for the this month. Click the calendar below to visit Bruce's site directly.



#### April 2025

+ SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 3
+ EA RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 5 to 1200Z, Apr 6
+ Louisiana QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0200Z, Apr 6
+ SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 5 to 1500Z, Apr 6
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 8
+ QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	0000Z-0600Z, Apr 12
+ JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 12 to 1300Z, Apr 13
+ DIG QSO Party, CW	1200Z, Apr 12 to 1100Z, Apr 13
+ OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	1200Z, Apr 12 to 1159Z, Apr 13
+ IG-RY World Wide RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 12 to 1800Z, Apr 13
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Apr 12 to 2359Z, Apr 13
+ New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 12 to 0200Z, Apr 13
+ Africa FT4 DX Contest	1500Z-1800Z, Apr 12
+ Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12 to 2359Z, Apr 13
+ Hungarian Straight Key Contest	1500Z-1600Z, Apr 13
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 13
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 14
+ NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Apr 17
+ World Wide Holyland Contest	2100Z, Apr 18 to 2059Z, Apr 19
+ ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0859Z, Apr 19
+ Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	0600Z, Apr 19 to 0559Z, Apr 20
+ Dutch PACCdigi Contest	0700Z-1900Z, Apr 19
+ YU DX Contest	0700Z, Apr 19 to 0659Z, Apr 20
+ QRP to the Field	0800 local-1800 local, Apr 19
+ CQMM DX Contest	0900Z, Apr 19 to 2359Z, Apr 20
+ Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 19 to 0400Z, Apr 20
+ EA-QRP CW Contest	1700Z, Apr 19 to 1200Z, Apr 20
+ Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 19 to 1800Z, Apr 20
+ Quebec QSO Party	1200Z-2200Z, Apr 20
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Apr 20 to 0100Z, Apr 21
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 23
+ 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 26 to 2359Z, Apr 27
+ SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 26 to 1200Z, Apr 27
+ Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 26 to 1259Z, Apr 27
+ Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 26 to 2159Z, Apr 27
+ BARTG Sprint 75	1700Z-2059Z, Apr 27



Click Calendar to visit online

**WA7BNM** Contest Calendar data used with permission

Background Image  
Source [LINK](#)



# THE W7DK ELMER BOARD

Do you have a skill or tool to help new hams?



**YOU! YES YOU!** Do YOU have a skill you could pass on to new amateur radio operators? Do you possess a skill or piece of gear that you're willing to share with others to fix antenna problems, diagnose noise issues, drive a ground rod, teach Morse, help teach technical topics? If the answer is YES you too could be a W7DK Elmer!! Let any

officer know what your skills are or how you could help new hams get a leg up on the hobby. And if you're one of those already on the list, are there any changes we should be aware of? If so please hit the email address (found bottom of page on the right) and let us know so we can update the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma "Elmer Board".

**NEW HAMS OR MEMBERS:** If you are looking for help, and NEED AN ELMER to help guide your way, use this table! Find the skill you need on the left, then look for an Elmer Provider of that skill on the right and reach out to them. ALL of these Elmer's have committed to helping so please don't hesitate.

## ELMER ("MENTOR") BOARD

Do you need help with some area of ham radio?

### List of members' areas of interest:

1. Technical questions, Classes
2. Help with Morse Code
3. License Examinations
4. Antenna and Station Planning
5. Antenna and Tower Erection
6. Buying Equipment (new or used)
7. Equipment Repair
8. Understanding and Using Your Gear
9. DXing and Contests
10. Club and ARRL Activities
11. Using Test Equipment
12. IRLP, Digital, SDR, APRS, WinLink, etc.
13. Basics of Electronics—how things work

Current as of January 2025

### Name/Call Sign/Phone Number/Topic:

Adam **W2NCC** 360-870-7894 (4, 5, 6, 7, 11)  
 Dave **N7HT** 253-363-1692 (1, 2, 4, 6, 8)  
 Dave **W7UUU** (253-820-0890 (2, 4, 6, 9)  
 Al **N7OMS** 253-495-9068 (10, 12)  
 Mike **W7XTZ** 253-405-8095 (6, 8, 10)  
 Stephen **AD7AB** 253-212-9437 (1, 3, 4, 12)  
 Randy **WB4SPB** 253-761-9391 (2)  
 Phil **K7PIA** 253-307-4781 (9, 10, 12)

Are you an RCT member with skills to offer?

Please let any officer know and we can add you!

**Note:** Providers or users of the Elmer Board must be local to the Radio Club of Tacoma. This is a local club service for our local members only. Thank you!



# COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

## A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

### NATIONAL NC-66 PORTABLE SW RECEIVER

Some radios are engineering masterpieces, packed with features and built to impress. Others are workhorses—affordable, simple, and good enough to get the job done.

The National NC-66 falls into the latter category.

Produced from 1957 to 1961, this compact receiver was designed for casual shortwave listeners and folks who wanted a decent SW portable without breaking the bank. At an original price of \$129.95, it offered a nice balance of capability and affordability.

At its core, the NC-66 is a five-tube superheterodyne receiver (many SW radios of this time were simply variants of the “All American Five” - a basic superhet but instead of just having BCB coverage, added tuning for shortwave bands).

It uses two 1U4 tubes (one as RF amplifier, the other as IF amplifier and BFO), a 1L6 local oscillator & mixer tube, a 1U5 detector & first audio, and a 3V4 audio output tube. This was a standard lineup for budget battery-powered receivers of the era, providing reasonable sensitivity and selectivity

without the complexity (or cost) of higher-end designs.... Essentially yet another reworking of the All American Five but using tubes with low-voltage filaments (1 and 3 volts—the first number of most

tube types tells you the filament voltage). This makes it easier to use with batteries.

Frequency coverage spanned from 150 kHz to 400 KHz for longwave beacon reception, then

jumped to 500 kHz through 23 MHz. That range covered AM broadcast stations as well as much of the shortwave spectrum, making the NC-66 a versatile radio for general all-band listening. The intermediate frequency (IF) was 455 kHz, which was common among consumer-grade radios of the time.

The receiver used a 5-inch permanent-magnet dynamic speaker and operated on 115V AC/DC, which was common for consumer radios at the time. It was housed in a compact metal case, measuring approximately just over 12 inches wide, 10 inches high, and 10 inches deep, with a total weight of about 16 pounds.



Photo: Dave W7UUU



# COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

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The tuning dial is typical and straightforward, with a main tuning dial that had a red pointer on a long slide-rule frequency scale. Below that was a basic bandspread dial that was simply a “logging scale” with arbitrary numbers from 0 to 100. The three shortwave bands ranged as follows:

band 1: 1.5 MHz to 4 MHz; band 2: 4 MHz to 11 MHz; band 3: 11.5 MHz to 23 MHz. No coverage of 11-meters (CB) or the 10-meter band was included (surely due to very poor performance at the higher frequencies).

To “set” any band, the user would turn the bandspread knob until the little red pointer was on the word “SET” on the far right of the scale. Once done, the large red pointer of the main tuning dial would be reasonably accurate.

One of the more interesting aspects of the NC-66 was its optional RDF-66 direction-finding adapter. This add-on included a rotatable loop antenna and a signal strength meter, turning the NC-66 into a basic radio direction finder—ostensibly for a “simple means of navigation for pleasure craft and small fishing vessels” ([as suggested by the manual](#)) but

really more just for hobbyists wanting to track down signal direction for events like “Bunny Hunts” and similar hobby purposes.

Direction finding was a practical skill in the late 1950s (and to some extent still is to this day), and

while this wasn’t a high-precision instrument, it added a layer of functionality that similar receivers lacked. Or at least a good selling point!

Like many radios of its class, the NC-66 was a transformerless

AC/DC design. This made it not

only lighter (no power transformer) but also affordable—but it also meant that, if not handled properly, the chassis could carry a dangerous shock hazard if the power plug were inserted into the outlet the wrong way. It’s a common safety issue with vintage AC/DC (transformerless) radios from this era, but one that modern restorers should be mindful of. Just speaking from my own experience, I would be inclined to install a small 1:1 isolation transformer in the battery compartment to remove any risk of accidental electric shock.

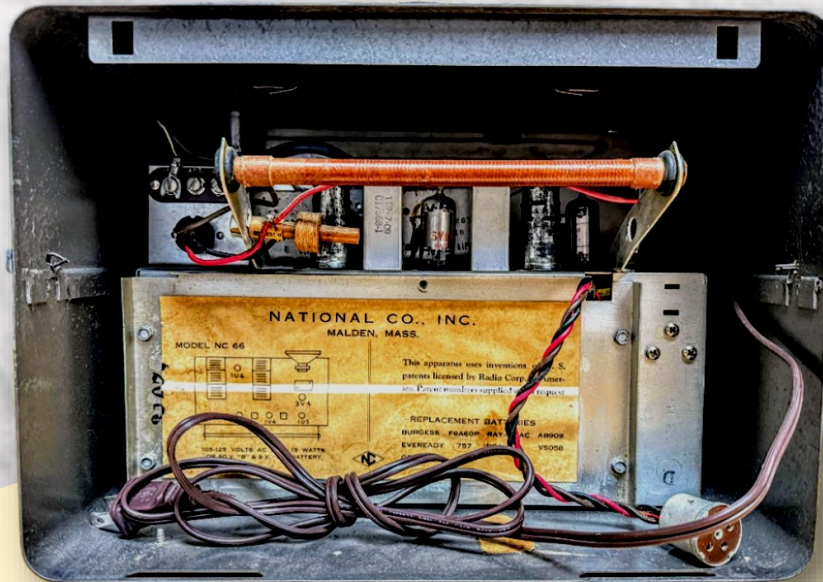


Photo: Dave W7UUU



# COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

## A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

**So how was the performance?** For a low-cost receiver, the NC-66 was respectable. It wasn't a high-end communication receiver, but it was never meant to be. It was meant as a fun radio to take to the beach (on battery power) or on camping trips and such. While it does have a BFO (switch labeled CWO for "CW Oscillator"), CW was never a primary focus of this receiver, but merely an afterthought.

All of the controls are simple: just band switch, tuning, bandspread, volume, and the CWO switch.

Having an RF amplifier stage is a bonus over many simple radios of the era—and helps greatly with weaker signal reception. Selectivity is decent but limited by the design—fine for strong broadcast stations but a challenge for weaker signals in crowded bands. No "amateur radio specific" features (other than the BFO) were offered—no CW filters, no switchable AGC levels, etc. But hams were not the intended market. SWL listeners and casual users were the aim with this radio.

Despite its limitations, it was a great introductory radio for hobbyists, teenagers, and those wanting a general-purpose shortwave receiver without the price tag of a more advanced communications model.

The NC-66 competed with other entry-level receivers, such as the Hallicrafters S-38E and various budget models from Lafayette and Allied Radio. Compared to the S-38E, the NC-66 was generally considered a better-built receiver with a more professional layout, but performance was similar.

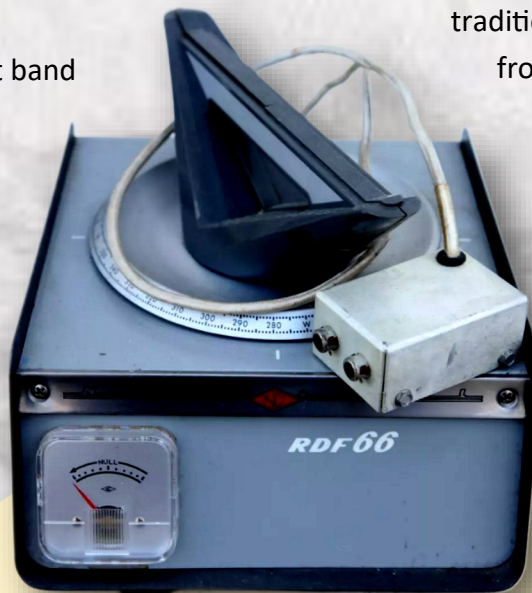
National Radio had a reputation for building solid, reliable receivers, and the NC-66 followed in that tradition. As with most other receivers from National, its looks are timeless and classic.

**These days, the NC-66 is mostly a collector's item.** It's not particularly rare, but clean, working examples can still draw interest from hams and shortwave listeners, if for no other reason than the classic styling.

The RDF-66 adapter, on the other hand, is harder to find and can be a fun addition for those looking to restore the set to its full capabilities. The NC-66 featured

in this article was found on the "Free Table" at the clubhouse—I left it there after I took my photos—but hopefully someone from the club picked it up and took it home for a full restoration.

-Dave W7UUU



*The very rare RDF-66 Radio Direction Finding add-on. This was unsold on eBay for \$259. Photo: [eBay ad](#) used under Fair Use*



YOU'LL HAVE MUCH MORE FUN WITH A  
**NATIONAL** SHORT WAVE RADIO RECEIVER.



**World's most versatile receiver!** A "ham" receiver, a 3-way portable, a marine receiver, and an SWL receiver. National's exciting new **NC-66** offers 115 V. AC/DC or battery operation, 5-band coverage from 150 kc to 23 mc, electrical bandspread with logging scale plus 2 antennas. Housed in a handsome, sturdy metal cabinet with carrying handle, the traditional National quality is evident throughout. You'll want to use it at home, on a trip, at camp—indoors or out.

12-5/16" x 9-11/16" x 10".  
 Weighs 16 lbs. less batteries. Suggested list price: **\$129.95\*** (less batteries).

8 out of 10 U.S. Navy ships  
 use National Receivers

**RDF-66**  
 Direction Finder  
 Loop accessory,  
 available  
 at extra cost

Imagine telling all the fellows about the police calls you hear... messages picked up direct from the giant ocean liners, or reports from planes flying thousands of miles away! You'll also hear conversations between radio "hams", and pull in foreign stations from all parts of the world.

**Fun? You bet!**

You'll get all this from National's **SW-54**. It has 3 shortwave bands plus broadcast band: 540 kc to 30 mc. It's a swell looker and performs like sets costing much more. Receives voice or code. 11" x 7" x 7"; weighs 13 lbs.

Suggested list price: **\$59.95\***

For complete details visit  
 your National Distributor, or write to

**National** 

Since 1914

Malden 48, Mass.



*tuned to tomorrow*



\*Prices slightly higher west of Rockies



# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

## Fun Day Shooting Antennas into Trees!



W7UUU

**SENT IN FROM JULIE W7JUL:** "Brad and I had a fun afternoon using some club members borrowed equipment. These are pictures of hubby Brad **KK7YQC** using the antenna air canon built by Mike **W7MKE**, with some antenna equipment on loan from David **AC7KP**. And believe it or not, Brad got the antenna rope over the intended tree limb on the very first shot! Pretty fun—way to go Brad and big thanks to Mike and David for the assistance with the gear!" -Julie **W7JUL**





## STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

### Alligators & Crocodiles OH MY!



W7UUU

**MOST OF US HAVE HEARD THE TERM** alligator clip at one time or another. But how many know there's another clip called a "crocodile clip"? It's true! There are *both* kinds out there!

But the differences are subtle, and frankly pretty trivial.

Traditionally, the alligator clip (below left) has fewer teeth that may or may not run the whole length of the clip. The crocodile clip (below right) tends to be beefier, with a tighter grip and only has strong gripping teeth at the very front, where a real crocodile does most of its "biting work". Another distinction: the term alligator clip tends to be the American term, whereas crocodile clip is much more common in the UK and Australia—regardless of how the teeth are actually configured.

But get a grip: call it whatever you want! -Dave **W7UUU**





# THE WAY BACK PHOTO BOOTH

Highlighted photos from the club's past

*Researched & Compiled by the Dave W7UUU*



Archive Photo



Early 1970s repainting time at the W7DK clubhouse... lower right is Nick **WA7IVO** now **K7MO**. (Sadly Nick passed away on March 6th). On the lower roof are Clay Frienwald **WA7WMC** and in the 16 shirt is his wife Kathy, **WA7WMD**. Partially obscured by the post, near the ladder, is Janet Patjens (later Margelli) **KL7MF**. Chip Margelli **K7JA**, Janet's future husband, was one of the best modern operators at Morse Code (CW) and years later, he became famous on the Jay Leno Show demonstrating that Morse could be faster than texting ([video link HERE](#)).





# MIGHTY DK! QSO REPORT

Reporting all the HF QSO action from the club



W7DK

**EACH MONTH** in the Bark, the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. [Saturday Open House](#), especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Assistance is almost always available for those unfamiliar with the equipment, and if your license class doesn't permit HF operation, ask the denizens of the HF Room or the Saturday clubhouse host to help you find a suitably-licensed control operator to sit with you. It's a feather in the club's hat for the call sign of The Mighty DK to be heard on the airwaves. So get on the air and get your name in the Bark! (Don't forget to *enter your call sign as the operator* into our logging program.) ■ -editor

## Clubhouse QSOs during this period:

NAME	CALL	QSOs
Mike	W7MKE	44
Julie	W7JUL	8
Leo	KF7ZFL	6
Gary	WG7X	2
—	—	—
—	—	—



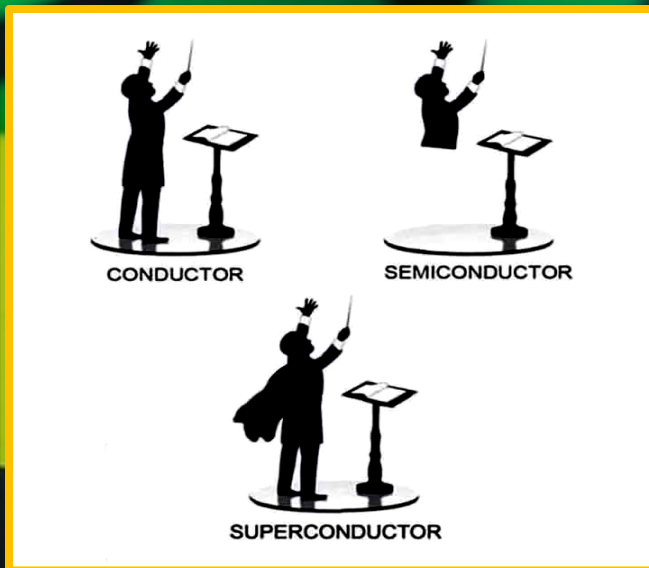
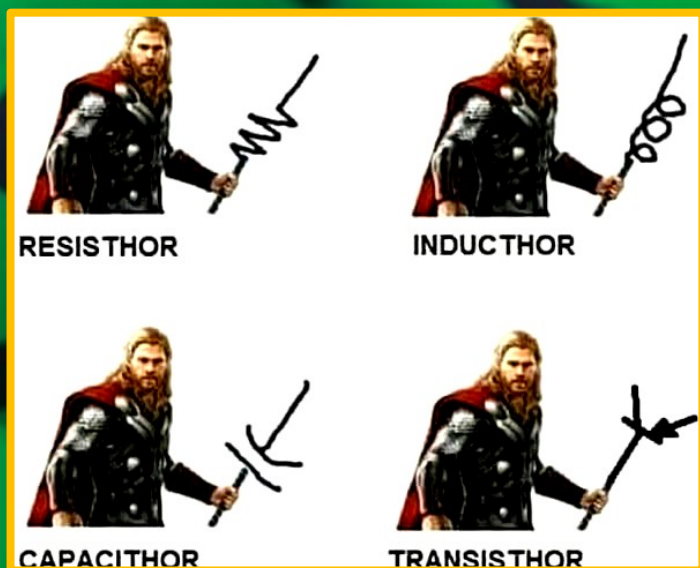
**Above:** HF Room Flex 6600 & Mercury III

**Below:** HF Room Icom IC-7610 & KPA-500



Photos: Dave **W7UUU**







# HOW'S DX?

DXpeditions and Notable DX operations



WEB

## NG3K Upcoming DXpedition Calendar



April		NG3K		NG3K		NG3K	N
2025 Apr01	2025 Apr07	Surinam	PZ5IP	PY8WW OQRS	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20250212	By PY8WW PZ5JW DL8TG fm Papegaaie I (IOTA SA=092); 40-10m; CW SSB + digital	N
2025 Apr03	2025 Apr10	Maldives	8Q7EF	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20250111	By IW2NEF fm Filitheyo I; 40-6m; SSB FT8; QSL via IK2DUW direct or HE9ERA Buro	N
2025 Apr09	2025 Apr15	French Polynesia	<a href="#">TX7XG</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20240923	By JA1XGI fm Fakarava Atoll (IOTA OC-066, BH73ev); 40-6m	N
2025 Apr16	2025 Apr23	Palau	T88UW	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20250208	By JH7IPR fm IOTA OC-009; HF; FT8, some CW SSB; QSL via Club Log OQRS or JH7IPR (B/d)	N
2025 Apr17	2025 Apr27	Bonaire	PJ4CB	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20241129	By WA7RAR; 20-10m; CW SSB; holiday style operation; QSL via WA7RAR direct	N
2025 Apr18	2025 Apr20	East Kiribati	<a href="#">T32AZ</a> NEW	KH6QJ (B/d)	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20250221	By KH6QJ; 40 20 15 10m	N
2025 Apr18	2025 Apr26	Galapagos	<a href="#">HD8G</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240609	By PY2PT PY2WAS PY5CC YT1AD + team fm IOTA SA-004 (EI49tf); 160-6m, incl 60m; SSB CW FT4 FT8 RTTY; QSL via M0URX OQRS	N
2025 Apr19	2025 May02	Gambia	C5	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20241227	By F5RAV as C5LT and YU5R as C5R fm nr Kololi; HF; CW SSB FT8	N
2025 Apr25	2025 May07	Austral Is	<a href="#">TX9A</a>	DK8ZZ	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240927	By 9A2NA 9A3MR 9A9R DK8ZZ fm IOTA OC-152; HF	N

Click anywhere on the table above to visit Bill's site directly—the hyperlinks will be active there.

Courtesy Bill Feidt, **NG3K**  
used with permission





# SPRING LIGHTS QSO PARTY

## APRIL 17-24, 2025

© Header photo 2016-2025 John L. Huggins

### THE ARLHS SPRING LIGHTS QSO PARTY 2025

#### Exciting News!

The ARLHS Spring Lights QSO Party is back for 2025! Whether you're activating a lighthouse or making contacts from your shack, this event is a great opportunity to celebrate amateur radio and lighthouses around the world. Sponsored by [ARLHS, LLC](#).

#### What's the Goal?

To promote public awareness of ham radio and lighthouses; to contribute to the recognition that lighthouses, lightships, and their keepers deserve; to foster camaraderie within the ham fraternity; and to provide fellowship among the members of the [Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society](#).

#### When Does It Happen?

Start: 0000Z, April 17, 2025

End: 2400Z, April 24, 2025

Full details and rules can be found [HERE](#).

This is always a fun week-long event and it's not a contest! It's just a great opportunity to talk to fellow hams around the world as they are set up and operating from historic lighthouses all around the United States and abroad.

I hope to work a few of you during this event!

-Dave W7UUU



Westport, Washington  
Light Station (Lighthouse)

ARLHS Lighthouse #US-342

Photo by Dave W7UUU





# Homebrew & Kits corner

## RADIO HOMEBREW PROJECTS BOTH LARGE & SMALL



**THIS MONTH'S HOMEBREW SUBMISSION COMES FROM** Dale Kelly, **KK7UOD**, of Pocatello, Idaho (by way of Rich **KR7W**). It's a very unique homebrew keyer paddle, with very nice wood and metal fabrication from Dale's home shop. But perhaps the most unique feature is the large, heavy, motorcycle chain sprocket used as the weighted base.

**From the builder, Dale:** "It seems like everybody in ham Radio likes to build stuff like this key and antennas and I enjoy doing that stuff too. As far as the sprocket goes I used to do a lot of dirt bike and motocross when I was young. It was one that was left over off an old [Suzuki TM 400](#) and it's just been laying around the shed all these years. It weights probably 4 or 5 pounds and holds the key down great. It's got rubber backing on it so it does not move around on the desk at all. I wanted to have a paddle key and with the Yaesu FT-950 with its internal electronic keyer, It works really well. The wood was left over walnut from a guitar build and the swing arm is just a hacksaw blade doubled up. The most expensive part was actually the logos! I just decided I wanted to learn Morse code and build my own key. I don't expect to ever get really good at the age of 71 but I do like it. It's fun to learn new stuff" -

-Dale **KK7UOD**



Photo: Rich KR7W



Photo: Dale KK7UOD



## AROUND THE SHACK & SHOP

### Little tips for when you get a round TUIT!



**MOST OF US IN AMATEUR RADIO TODAY** realize that having a PC available is a big part of the hobby—whether some folks like it or not. Be it for logging, for radio control, or for running digital modes such as FT8 and FT4, a computer is a mainstay of most shacks these days (all respect to those who shun computers completely in amateur radio—but this article isn't aimed at you so please move on to the next page).

But a computer to run basic ham radio programs and meet the needs of the average amateur does not need to be a massive investment. Nor does it have to be your “main computer” like the super expensive laptop you use for work. Nothing of the kind.

Some hams get by with apps on their smartphones for many of these needs. Others use variations of the Raspberry Pi. But while those options may check some of the boxes, there's nothing that beats a full-on computer running Windows 10 or 11, that works “just like your main computer at home”. That's the audience for this article. If that's you, read on!

**My choice for this need is a computer that was sold by the millions—and is now on the surplus market at amazing prices: the Microsoft Surface Pro4.** Introduced almost 10 years ago, this lightweight tablet style computer (when equipped with a keyboard lid) is now available all day long for under \$200 and often less than that. I currently own three of them. I didn't pay more than \$149 for any of them (before shipping cost, usually around \$14 or so from eBay sellers). The basic configuration found in the vast majority of eBay commercial resellers is more than adequate for ham radio use: Intel i5 processor, 4GB RAM, 128 GB SSD drive, with a brand new power supply and a refurbished (or sometimes new!) keyboard that doubles as a screen protector.

**I have found that there's virtually no ham radio need that I can't meet with one of my MS Surface Pro4 computers.** In fact, I have them in dedicated purposes—just for convenience. I have one that's all set up for POTA operations (see photo), that just lives in my POTA case. It has my N3FJP logging, WSJT-X, and a few other helper apps. It lives on a charger in my shack ready to roll at any time.

I have another that I use just for my SKCC pursuits—using the SKCC Logger program and having the ease to move it from operating position to operating position.

**I'm not advocating that hams do like I do and have dedicated such devices**—but if you don't mind buying a refurbished unit, they are all over eBay from \$100 to \$175 all day long. Just look for the big sellers that have dozens or hundreds for sale. They buy them up from the business world, refurbish them with new SSD hard drives and power supplies, and resell them to you—for pretty cheap. If you have questions or want to come visit to see how I have mine set up, just shoot me an email.

-Dave **W7UUU**





# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

## RADIO ADS FROM 75 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

W7UUU

### New Version of AN OLD FAVORITE....



**hallicrafters**  
**S-40B**

**NOW AVAILABLE! \$89.95**

Improved version of the world's most popular ham receiver. What's the secret behind such popularity? Just good sound engineering—a stable straight-forward circuit with plenty of what you want—at a price within reach of everyone.

One r-f, two i-f stages. Temperature compensated. Series type noise limiter. Micro-set iron core i-f coils. Separate electrical bandspread. Improved cabinet construction. Built-in PM speaker. 7 tubes plus rectifier. AC DC version (Model S-77) coming one month later at same price.

EXPORT REPRESENTATIVES: Canadian Radio Manufacturers Corp., Toronto;  
Philips Export Corp.; Ortiz Brothers International

**hallicrafters**  
"The Radio Man's Radio"

WORLD'S LEADING MANUFACTURER OF PRECISION RADIO & TELEVISION • CHICAGO 24, ILLINOIS

**75 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH** in the ham radio magazines of the day, Hallicrafters was advertising the new S-40B receiver which was an improvement over the earlier S-40A. It was a general coverage receiver, covering from 540 KHz to 44 MHz across 4 bands and was suitable for AM radio, Shortwave, and amateur radio use. It used a total of 8 tubes, with the then-standard 455 KHz IF (intermediate frequency). While it did not have a product detector, it could still be used to copy SSB in later years when that mode became popular by careful adjustment of the RF gain control and tuning. The soft green glow of the panel illumination lamp behind the plastic dial and bandspread window (the little square window—that's not a meter as you might think—it's the bandspread dial) give the S-40B a wonderful vintage look in the shack, even to this day. Improvements over the earlier S-40A were functional as well as aesthetic: improved shielding, improved bandspread dial, and performance enhancements in the AF and IF sections. The S-40A had a slightly different look—silver speaker grille instead of black, silver bandswitch, and a few other slight differences. These are still fun-to-use radios and come up fairly often at ham fests and swapmeets—seldom commanding much of a price these days. \$40 would be typical. When new, they sold for \$99.50 which inflates to over \$1200 in today's money! If you have the space, the interest, and the wallet, the S-40B is a fun old rig even today.

-Dave W7UUU



# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

## RADIO ADS FROM 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

W7UUU

### IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT

in the mid-1920s, the line between "amateur radio" and "broadcast radio" was far less defined than it is today. Back then, the hobby was simply "radio"—a fascinating new technology that captivated tinkerers and experimenters. The content being transmitted or received was often a secondary concern.

Many early radio enthusiasts, who would later become known as hams, began their journey by devouring issues of *Radio Age* and *Radio News*. These magazines were packed with articles and "hookups" (what we now call schematics) for the latest receiver designs. Builders would often tweak these circuits to suit their needs, whether for receiving longwave transmissions, early AM broadcasts, or the signals of fellow experimenters who were beginning to explore two-way communication using CW.

At the time, radio wasn't neatly categorized the way it is today. Someone building a receiver might be just as interested in picking up music and news as they were in listening to ship-to-shore traffic or the transmissions of other radio hobbyists. Likewise, those transmitting weren't necessarily thinking of themselves as "broadcasters" or "amateurs"—they were simply part of an evolving world of wireless communication.

Only later, as regulations and licensing structures took shape, did clear distinctions emerge between professional broadcasters and amateur radio operators. But in the mid-1920s, radio was still a frontier, and anyone with the curiosity and skill to experiment with it was a pioneer in their own right.

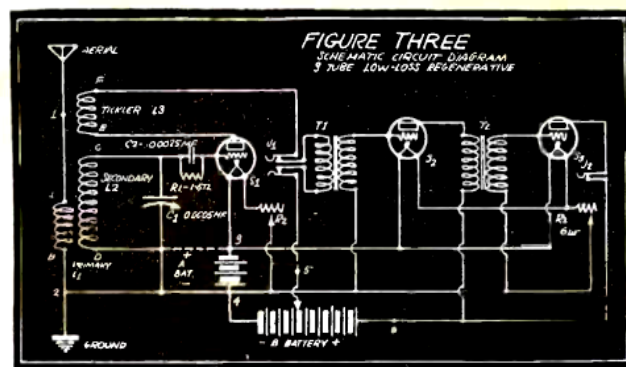
-Dave W7UUU

80

RADIO AGE for April, 1925

The Magazine of the Hour

## Hookups Like This One Get Results!



Above is a circuit diagram of a hookup published in the RADIO AGE ANNUAL for 1925, and which has taken the radio fans by storm! Although it is but a three-tube affair, it consistently "pulled in" California stations on the loudspeaker while located less than a mile from two powerful Chicago broadcasting stations! Hookups such as these make the ANNUAL for 1925 a necessity in your store of radio knowledge.

You'll Find Them in *The Radio Age Annual for 1925!*

### A 32-PAGE BLUEPRINT SECTION

is the predominating feature of the RADIO AGE ANNUAL for 1925. Sixteen pages of actual-color blueprints of every kind of hookup from the simplest one-tube sets to the very latest 8-tube super-het. The only blueprint section ever printed.

HAVE YOU seen the new RADIO AGE ANNUAL for 1925? Thousands of fans have already bought their copies, and the end of the first edition supply is not far off. Every buyer of the ANNUAL for 1925 has supported our contention that it is the biggest radio dollar's worth ever published. Scores of new hookups, tried and tested in the RADIO AGE laboratories, hundreds of isometric, circuit and photographic illustrations, and a 32-page blueprint section are some of the features that make this 120-page book invaluable to the technical fan. The expert will find the latest in experimental and multi-tube hookups, while the beginner will feel "at home" with a galaxy of "how to do it" articles written especially for him.

\$1.00 a  
Copy

RADIO AGE ANNUAL  
FOR 1925

\$1.00 a  
Copy

### Some of the Features

How to read and understand hookups.  
How to understand radio phenomena.  
Building your first simple set.  
How to select the right receiver.  
Substituting a tube for a crystal—building the first tube set.  
How to amplify any kind of set.  
Making a reflex set.  
Building your first Reinartz set.  
The renowned Baby Heterodyne No. 1.  
Adding audio and radio stages to the Baby Het.  
How to make a battery charger.  
How to make a loud speaker.  
RADIO AGE ANNUAL BLUEPRINT SECTION with such popular hookups as the aperiodic variometer, loop sets, feed-

back receivers, neutrodynes, reflex hookups, Baby Het No. 2, a Wonder Super-Het, and others.  
How to get rid of interference.  
How to make an amplifying unit.  
How to recognize and deal with every kind of tube trouble.  
Another super-heterodyne for the super experimenter.  
Hints on tracing troubles in super-heterodyne circuits.  
A three-tube long distance regenerator.  
A 3-tube set that easily receives KGO on the loud speaker from Ohio.  
Improving the ever popular Reinartz.  
AND MANY OTHER UP-TO-THE-MINUTE HOOKUPS AND ARTICLES.

### RADIO AGE ANNUAL COUPON

RADIO AGE, INC.,  
500 North Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen: I want to be one of the first to get the RADIO AGE ANNUAL FOR 1925. Enclosed find \$1.00. If I am not satisfied with the ANNUAL I will return it within five days and you will refund my dollar.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

4-25

State.....





## Plan Now: Upcoming POTA!

By BJ KO7T

### RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA POTA 2025 Schedule

This past year, the club hosted 11 POTA activations at 7 different parks, and we have BIG plans for 2025!

The Club's POTA Chairman, BJ KO7T, is always looking ahead for fun new parks in the state to activate. It's always a great way for members to get involved with amateur radio while enjoying the great outdoors here in Washington State!

Here's the upcoming schedule:

**PARK:** [Lake Sammamish State Park](#)

**DATE:** April 13, 2025

**TIMES:** 10:00 AM PDT

**PARK:** [Nolte State Park](#)

**DATE:** May 18, 2025

**TIMES:** 10:00 AM PDT

**PARK:** [Illahee state Park](#)

**DATE:** June 15, 2025

**TIMES:** 10:00 AM PDT

**PARK:** [Saint Edward State Park](#)

**DATE:** July 20th

**TIMES:** 10:00 AM PDT

**Everyone is invited to come** to our POTA activation events. It's a great opportunity to learn about different antenna types, setting up and tuning antennas with loading coils and/or a counterpoise, learn about different digital modes, and other topics related to portable operations. We usually have 3 to 5 stations set up running many modes on multiple bands. We encourage prospective hams to get on the air, and those with Technician licenses to operate on different bands with a control operator. For club members with a General license, we even have a portable POTA kit that is available to check out from the club the Saturday prior to our club activations. Please see or [email BJ Rollison](#) (KO7T) for more information.

-BJ KO7T



BJ KO7T operating at a recent POTA activation





HELLO ALL—THIS IS AL N7OMS, YOUR UNOFFICIAL POTA observer with this month's POTA report. This event was led by your intrepid explorer BJ K07T and we had unexpectedly good weather at Tacoma's [Dash Point State Park](#). While a bit on the chilly side, the sky was blue and you could tell things were turning towards spring.

We had a couple of members with some new-to-them equipment—some that had been purchased at the just-ended Mike and Key Club Ham Fest, and some from the Club itself. I saw K7SSS (SK) Jimmy's call sign on one of the Elecraft pieces of gear. I think he would've approved because Jimmy loved to take his radios out to Parks and set up just to see who he could hear.

As can be expected with any new equipment there were trials and tribulations with getting everything set up. POTA has a unique set of circumstances, and there is a definite skillset to get a station up and running. There was plenty of advice and all of it was free!

John N7TES was with us and his operation was very well done. His station has evolved over the times I have been visiting the club's POTA events and seems to get more and more refined. As with any skill it takes practice to define what works well. If you have an interest in your own POTA station, come out to one of the club's events and check out what your fellow members are learning.

I had been to this location before and was always struck by how lovely it was looking out over Puget Sound through the trees. With the picnic shelter and lots of trees for antennas available, plus being pretty high over the water, contacts are quite easy to come by. This location also benefits from being somewhat away from manmade noise so a low noise floor. All that together makes this an ideal POTA site. Just don't forget your State of Washington [Discover Pass](#) (paid parking permit) and be aware some navigation systems have trouble

finding this park. .

We even had a visitor that seemed very interested in ham Radio and who was excited to know that we were the Radio Club of Tacoma. We told them about our classes and website so he could find out more.

I believe there is a very definite connection between the skills needed for POTA and for EMCOM work. These club events give you a chance to refine your own station skills and see what is possible.

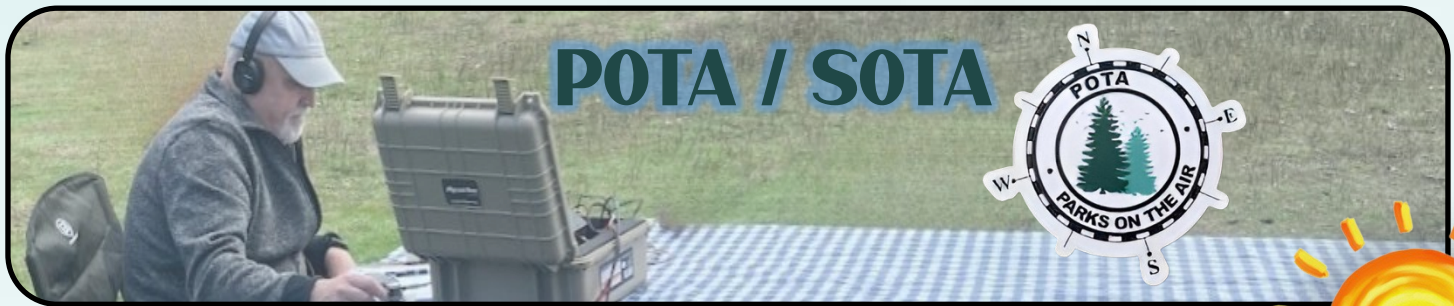
Even if you just want to get out and explore our local parks these events provide easy opportunities and you might even get to sit down and make a QSO or two. Check out upcoming events on the [W7DK website](#).

-Al N7OMS



Dash Point POTA crew L>R: John N7TES, Paul W7PFU, Julie W7JUL (bright blue), Al N7OMS, Dave AC7KP. Far right is BJ K07T and unknown in brown hat. Photo: Mike W7MKE





All photos this page by AI **N7OMS**



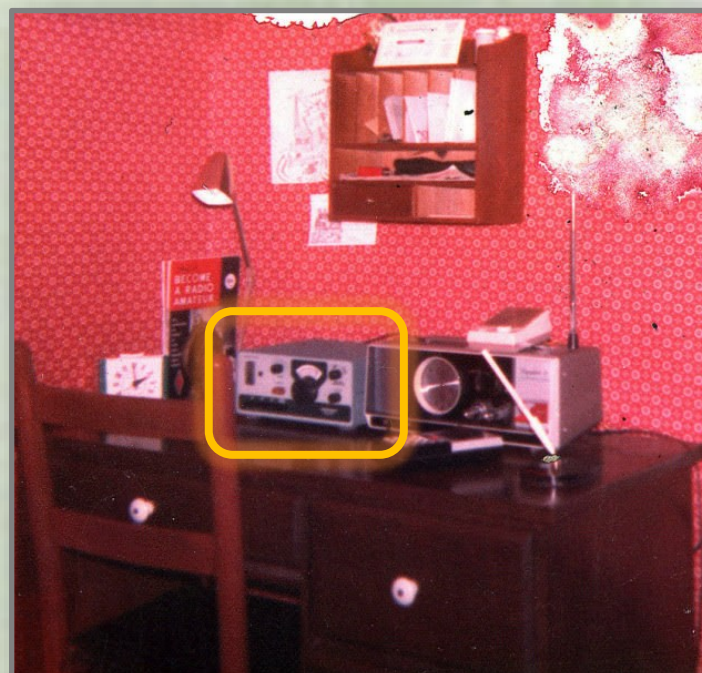
# 50 YEARS TO THE MINUTE!

By Dave W7UUU

THIS ARTICLE WAS IN THE PLANNING FOR OVER A month. It was to document a special event in my ham radio life—the 50th anniversary of my very first QSO, and it was to be with the same ham that I worked all those years ago—Nick Winter, **K7MO** (**WA7IVO** back in 1975). I put together a reasonable facsimile of my original station, which was a lowly [Heathkit HW-7 QRP transceiver](#) (that I built in January 1975, when I was only 13 years old). For the 50th station, I had set up a vastly superior [Heathkit HW-8](#) instead. I do have a HW-7 but it's really a lousy radio in so many ways that I thought it would be “close enough” and more fun to use the HW-8.

Nick was going to be running his state-of-the-art Elecraft K4 transceiver. And both of us would be using our SteppIR DB18E Yagi antennas.

On February 7th at 23:15, Nick and I did a quick test to make sure things were working (see below). It turned out this would be our very last QSO together... Nick passed away suddenly on March 6th, 11 days before our QSO anniversary—March 17, 2025.



**Above:** This was my first shack as **WN7AWK**. The highlighted radio is a Heathkit HW-7 that I built myself at age 13 in January, 1975 while waiting for my Novice ticket to arrive. The radio to the right was a Montgomery Wards “toy CB” that I used to talk to a kid across the street

**Below:** (and in the page header): This is my first logbook page, showing where I logged **WA7IVO** (Nick, now **K7MO SK**) at 03:16 UTC on March 17, 1975 as my very first QSO. We actually conversed over CW for 33 minutes—not bad for a first-time CW QSO with another ham! This earned me my RCC award from the ARRL.



0026	WN7AWK	X	7:130	"	NC	
0028	CQ	X	7:139	"	NC	
0106	CQ	X	7:111	2.5	NC	
0115	CQ	X	7:124	"	NC	
0206	CQ	X	7:135	"	NC	
0250	CQ	Y	7:135	"	NC	
0232	CQ	X	7:130	"	NC	
0234	W7UUU	X	7:130	2.5	NC	
0234	W7UUU	X	7:130	"	NC	
0250	CQ	X	7:135	"	NC	
0316	X	WA7IVO 7:137 1975 689	7:137	"	0537	NICK XX
0344	X	W7UUU	7:157	"	NC	
0422	CQ	X	7:157	"	NC	
0425	CQ	X	7:157	"	NC	



# 50 YEARS TO THE MINUTE!

By Dave W7UUU



Randy **WB4SPB** in his shack with the same kind of rig that Nick used 50 years prior—a Drake B-Line. I was honored to have Randy fill in for Nick for this bittersweet commemoration event.



Photo: Anne N7ANN

This is my recreation of the March 1975 station lineup—instead of a HW-7 I used my HW-8 which is just far more useable for a QSO than the HW-7.

**Click photo hear our actual QSO.**

**AT THE APPOINTED TIME of 03:16 UTC** on March 17, 2025 I called Randy **WB4SPB** on the prearranged frequency of 7097 KHz on 40-meters. Given that my HW-8 isn't all that selective, and the band was rather crowded, that was a frequency that worked both ways. Randy and I had a very nice 11 minute QSO. In part, I sent this message to him:

Big thanks to Randy for helping recreate that moment in honor of Nick. It's too bad Nick and I could not have made it happen but this was the next best thing. And thanks to Jeff **WR2E** who gifted me the HW-8 four years ago [after my big shack fire](#). It's a fun rig to use on the air, and I'm grateful to Jeff that I could use it for this very special occasion.

-Dave **W7UUU**

"THIS QSO MARKS TO THE MINUTE 50 YEARS AGO I HAD MY FIRST QSO AS A NEW NOVICE HAM. I WAS WN7AWK THEN. MY FIRST QSO WAS WITH NICK WA7IVO, K7MO. MAY HE REST IN PEACE. THAT FIRST QSO WAS 33 MINUTES LONG AND I EARNED MY RCC CERTIFICATE. THANKS FOR HELPING RECREATE THAT MOMENT 50 YEARS LATER"

WB4SPB DE W7UUU 0316 - 0327 7097 KHz 3/17  
 FB RANDY MR RST 559 559 MR BUT FB CPY = THIS QSO MARKS THE THE  
 MINUTE 50 YRS A GO I HAD MY FIRST QSO AS A NOVICE HAM II  
 WAS WN7AWK THEN - MY FIRST QSO WAS WITH NICK WA7IVO, K7MO  
 SK MAY HE REST IN PEACE = THAT FIRST QSO WAS 33 MINUTES LONG  
 ES I EARNED MY RCC CERTIFICATE SOHH CPY  
 THANKS FOR THE NICE WORDS RANDY = I REALLY WILL MISS NICK =  
 THANKS FOR HELPING RECREATE THAT QSO MOMENT 50 YEARS A BITCH  
 W, IT REALLY MEANS A LOT TO ME 73 ES CU L A E

Randy's transcription of the QSO. **Click any photo on this page to see and hear this QSO as it took place in real time.**



# 50 YEARS TO THE MINUTE!

By Dave W7UUU



Photo by Unknown

Nick **WA7IVO** (now **K7MO**) a couple of years before he became my first contact



Photo by Doc Spike W7OS

Dave **WB7AWK** (now **W7UUU**) 6 months later, after getting my General—note that I still had the HW-7



Photo by Dave **W7UUU**

And here's Nick **K7MO** (SK) in modern times at his state-of-the-art Elecraft K4 station. Sadly he became a Silent Key just 11 days before our event.



Photo by S. Elfie

Dave **W7UUU** also in my modern shack (FTDX-101MP etc.) keeping my bald head warm in a cap knitted by XYL Anne **N7ANN**





President Adam **W2NCC** (right) helps a buyer understand the functions of a cool item for sale by the club



Jim **W7VK** shows off a 1950s Bud Gimix wavemeter that will be featured in the May issue of The Logger's Bark



Mike **W7MKE** and Anne **N7ANN** mug for the camera at Gary **WG7X**'s booth (not shown but owns the hand you can see on the right!)



Paul **N7OSS** tends the W7DK table

*All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU***





Really good turnout this year for the M&K ham fest



Adam **K7EDX** (standing) and his gang at the Western WA DX Club table—really great folks!



Sam **N9MII** shows a buyer one of his many items for sale



Warren **NG7G** takes a stint manning the DK booth

*All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU***



# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

## Fun stuff for Hams to read!



W7UUU

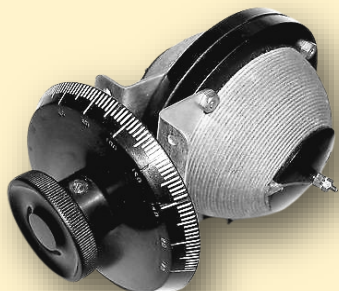
### Hidden Word Contest

This month's hidden word is **Variometer**

While there are different sorts of gizmos called variometers, the one for radio use is an air core inductor used to vary inductance in tuned circuits. It consists of two inductors (coils of wire specifically arranged) that are connected in series. One coil is fixed and the other is rotatable. By rotating the inner coil relative to the outer coil, the coupling changes which allows for continuous adjustment of the total inductance. Very often, 1920s vintage variometers are ball-shaped, typically about the size of a baseball. But homebrewers today build them in "U" frames using short 2" or 3" pipe sections for the rotating component. The word will be hidden on a page in plain sight—find it, let me know what page it was on, and I'll send you some really cool W7DK and QRZ stickers for FREE! (This page doesn't count!!)

### Hidden Object Contest

This month, the "hidden object" will be the same as the hidden word—a vintage radio Variometer! So look for this object to appear on a page in The Bark, and shoot me an email (address below right) and I will send you an assortment of cool stickers for free!



### Famous Ham March Birthdays

**THIS MONTH WE HAVE TWO STAND-OUT HAMS** with birthdays: actor Marlon Brando, and former Apple CEO John Sculley! Marlon was born April 3, 1924 (died July 1, 2004 at 80 years). Sculley was born April 6, 1939 and is currently 85 years of age.

**Marlon Brando actually had licenses** in both the U.S. as **KE6PZH** as well as in French Polynesia as **FO8GJ** (also reported as **FO5GJ**). While some folks have suggested that Marlon never actually got licensed (Google it—there's quite a bit of debate about this), most accounts pretty much verify it to be true. In fact, during an interview on The Larry King show on CNN, Brando stated it "provided him with the opportunity to just be himself". [KI7K posted on eHam 20 years ago](#), not long after Brando's passing, that he had indeed had a QSO with him, and that he preferred to be called Marty on the air.

**John Sculley held the call sign K2HEP** from 1983 to 1993, with an interest in ham radio dating back to his childhood. While he once stated that "everything he has done in his life was somehow an extension of his childhood hobby, ham radio" there was zero evidence I could find of actual activity prior to 1983, and even at that—there's not much else to be found about his ham career during his single 10-year term as a ham.

-Dave **W7UUU**

Photos: Wiki commons





**MIKE PREMUS, BETTER KNOW BY HIS CALL SIGN W20Y**, remains one of the most infamous guys in amateur radio history. Active much of the last century, by the 1950s and 60s, Premus was notorious for his strict, self-imposed operating policy: **“No lids, no kids, no space cadets.”** His relentless enforcement of this rule made him one of the most controversial hams to ever key a microphone.

**Mike was a pioneer in amateur radio and was first licensed** as 8AHQ in 1919, later as 8MU. In 1947 he applied for **W20Y** when New York became the 2nd FCC License District. For his vocation, he owned an appliance store in Buffalo, NY. By all accounts I could find, he ran a good business and was well liked in his local community. In his day-to-day life, he was actually a pretty nice guy!

When Mike got his **W20Y** call sign, the only prefixes that had been issued at the time in “2-land” were W’s initially. The first K call signs started being is-

sued in the mid-1950s, so in Mike’s mind, having a K call sign meant you were a “Johnny-come-lately” sort of ham and made it onto his bad list. Often during his CQ calls he’d say “No K calls” but that was eventually replaced with “no slopbuckets” - presumably because many of

the newer K call ham operators were starting to experiment with Single Sideband (SSB) - a mode that early-on earned the disparaging name “slopbucket” by many older “AM only” hams.

**Unlike most operators who embraced friendly conversations** and the welcoming spirit of ham radio, **W20Y** took a far stricter approach. He believed amateur radio should be reserved for serious, disciplined operators and he had no patience for what he called “lids” — our hobby’s slang term for poor or careless operators. Younger (than him-

self) hams, whom he dismissed as “kids,” were also unwelcome. Ironically, he in fact DID like kids! He was well-liked in his community and was a mentor



Dick Haungs **W2UJR** and Mike Premus **W20Y**  
Photo: Hamgallery.com—used with permission





("Elmer") to many young new hams in the area, and the kids of Lancaster, New York called him Gramps.

**As for the "space cadets" bit, that term was never fully defined by Mike.** But it seemed to apply to anyone he deemed unworthy of his time. Who knows—maybe there were some Sputnik-1 associations that fueled the expression—referencing the first artificial space satellite launched by the Soviets in October 1957. If an operator called him and didn't meet his personal standards, they would be met with a blunt refusal, often punctuated by his infamous catchphrase: "No lids, no kids, no space cadets. **W20Y**" and that would be the end of the QSO. Mike would just stay put on frequency, and resume his CQ, CQ, CQ call until someone meeting his strict standards would respond.

**Some of his other famous (infamous?) sayings were:**

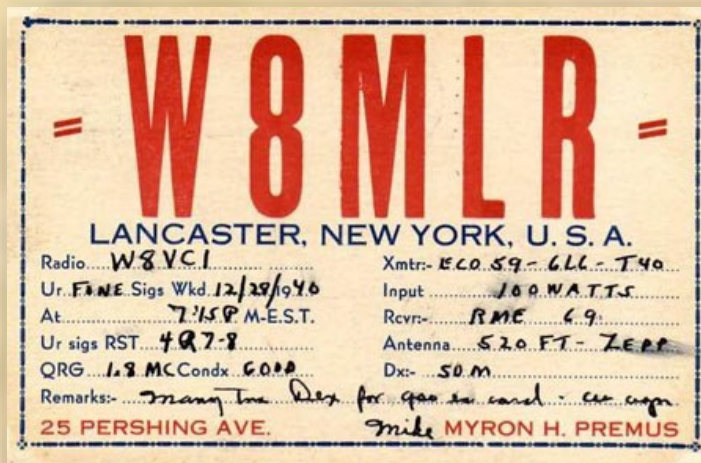
"No buster brown haircutters, no phony phonetics, only *real hams* please";

"No Wet Bottoms (a "phony phonetic" reference to the fairly new WB call sign prefixes perhaps?);

"No kings, No queens, No jacks, No long-talkin' Old Washer Women" - whatever that meant!

**Recordings of W20Y's transmissions still circulate** today (see the last page of this article for a link to one) capturing his gruff, matter-of-fact voice delivering the same unwavering message—very much like a commercial radio broadcaster voice. There was no room for small talk or negotiation—if you didn't fit his criteria, you weren't worth his time.

**Mike's reputation quickly spread**, and some hams



Mike Premus held many call signs in his life: **8AHQ**, **8MU**, **W20Y**, **W2QWK**, and per the QSL card above, **W8MLR** while living in Lancaster, New York

Photo: Hamgallery.com—used with permission



Photo: Google Earth

*This classic cute little house at 25 Pershing Avenue in Lancaster, New York is where Myron "Mike" Premus spent many of his years on the air, chastising "Lids, Kids and Space Cadets" and putting himself in the history books of Amateur Radio.*





even called him on the air just to provoke a reaction, *knowing* he would respond with another grumpy (but professionally-delivered) dismissal. Others simply ignored him, dismissing him as a cranky relic of an earlier era in radio—a “spin the dial” sort of voice on the air that really earned the “lid” label.

**Despite his abrasiveness, W20Y did have some supporters.** To them, Premus represented an older tradition in amateur radio—one that demanded proper etiquette and respect for the airwaves. In their eyes, he wasn’t just being difficult; he was maintaining high standards in an era when some operators were becoming sloppy or undisciplined (in his estimation). However, most hams saw him as nothing more than an unpleasant obstruction to the spirit of camaraderie that defines amateur radio. And a lid!

**His disdain for young operators was especially controversial.** For generations, experienced hams have taken pride in mentoring newcomers, passing down knowledge, and fostering enthusiasm for the hobby. **W20Y**, however, stood in direct opposition to this idea when he was on the air, creating an exclusionary atmosphere that went against the broader mission of amateur radio. This despite being a friend to all his neighbors in Lancaster, looked up to by many young kids in the community and referred to as Gramps. In the years after his passing, many of those “kids” mourned his loss.

The details of Premus’ later years and his eventual departure from the airwaves are not well documented, but his legend lives on. His call sign remains a point of discussion among hams in the QRZ, eHam,

and Reddit forums, referenced as an example of extreme elitism on the bands and the epitome of “being a lid”. Whether he was a dedicated traditionalist or just an irritable operator who took himself too seriously, one thing is certain—no one forgot **W20Y**. His voice, his attitude, and his mantra are still remembered, debated, and, on occasion, even imitated on the airwaves today.

*-Dave **W7UUU**—not a Lid, a Kid, or a Space Cadet!*

[CLICK HERE](#)

**To hear W20Y on the air!**

OFFICIAL W20Y APPROVED STANDARD PHONETIC LIST. (NATO, ITU, ICAO, FAA)	DX COMMONLY OBSERVED PHONETICS. WARNING! Never use these on traffic nets!	
ALPHA	AMERICA	AMSTERDAM
BRAVO	BOSTON	BRAZIL
CHARLIE	CANADA	CHILE
DELTA*	DENMARK	
ECHO	ENGLAND	
FOXTROT	FRANCE	
GOLF	GERMANY	GUATEMALA
HOTEL	HONOLULU	HAWAII
INDIA	ITALY	
JULIET	JAPAN	
KILO	KILOWATT	
LIMA	LONDON	LIMA
MIKE	MEXICO	MONTREAL
NOVEMBER	NORWAY	NICARAGUA
OSCAR	ONTARIO	OCEAN
PAPA	PORTUGAL	PACIFIC
QUEBEC	QUEBEC	
ROMEO	RADIO	
SIERRA	SPAIN	
TANGO	TOKYO	
UNIFORM	UNITED	URUGUAY
VICTOR	VENEZUALA	VICTORIA
WHISKEY	WASHINGTON	
X-RAY	X-RAY	
YANKEE	YOKOHAMA	
ZULU	ZANZIBAR	

*Mike Premus’ **W20Y** “Official Approved” phonetics vs. those he made it clear he did not want to hear on the air. Ironically, “his” list is actually the official ICAO list in use to this day*



# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!



W7UUU

## Survey Center!



**THIS MONTH ANOTHER UTTERLY NON-SCIENTIFIC** poll from the users of QRZ.com (every time I run one of these I get cranky emails saying “your poll isn’t valid because it only counts QRZ users who happen to find the survey and decide to participate” - so I now say this right up front.... turn the page if you like ☹️).

It’s interesting to me to note that the ARRL LoTW system still reigns supreme at a 73% of the vote, with QRZ’s logbook just a tad behind The League at 67.8%. But most surprising is that there’s still a fairly substantial majority (55.6%) that use good old-fashioned paper QSL cards! Only 1/3 are using the eQSL system—possibly because it’s not taken very seriously, due to not being a “double-blind” system like LoTW and QRZ. And 6.7% don’t do any sort of QSO confirmation at all. In case you’re wondering, my votes have the asterisk—I try to use all the popular systems to include the most hams.

-Dave W7UUU

## QSL Card of the Month

American Radio Relay League Station 1AW  
Hiram Percy Maxim, Owner 276 No. Whitney Street, Hartford, Conn.  
Radio \_\_\_\_\_  
Your \_\_\_\_\_ signals were worked here on \_\_\_\_\_ at about \_\_\_\_\_  
A.M. P.M. E.S.T.  
on Tuska three-circuit tuner and two stages audio amplification. Baldwin phones.  
Audibility \_\_\_\_\_  
Remarks: *Sig heard here often usually QSA*  
Wave-length \_\_\_\_\_  
QRM \_\_\_\_\_  
QRN \_\_\_\_\_  
QSS \_\_\_\_\_  
Weather \_\_\_\_\_  
Tone \_\_\_\_\_  
Wave \_\_\_\_\_  
Would like report on 1AW's signals if you hear them. Best 73's.  
*Hiram Percy Maxim* Operator

**MANY MODERN HAMS MAY NOT KNOW** that the American Radio Relay League, ARRL, and its club call sign W1AW, actually both originally belonged to ARRL co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim who held the call sign **1AW**. He founded The League while living at the address above, and this was his actual QSL card from the early days of amateur radio.

Note the differences over today’s QSL data points... time is noted in EST A.M. and P.M. instead of UTC/GMT and there’s no RST section (the RST system didn’t formalize until [October 1934, as published in QST](#) by Arthur Braaten, **W2BSR**). The card above was surely one of many “ready to go” blanks that Maxim had on hand, already filled out with “Sig heard here often usually QSA” which at the time meant “fully readable”. But also would be noted the level of QRM (interference from other operators), QRN (static), weather conditions, tone of the CW note, and wavelength (instead of frequency).

But most importantly, Maxim signed the card with “73’s” ... plural of “73” (Best Regards). Hmmm... Maxim himself said “73’s”?! Something modern hams insist is very improper, the Old Man himself was fond of doing! So—73’s Bark Readers!

-Dave W7UUU





## Ham Shack of the Month



**FO5GJ—actor Marlon Brando**

In honor of Marlon Brando's (FO5GJ) birthday this month (101 years ago, April 3, 1924), I want to feature his shack setup at his [Tetiaroa Beach \(French Polynesia\) bungalow](#), circa 1979. Visible in the photo is an assortment of Collins rigs—what appears to be an S-Line split over two shelves, with an Atlas 210 or 215 in the matching Atlas console and power supply in the lower right. To the left on the bottom shelf appears to be a Yaesu FT-901D. Up on the top shelf is a Collins 30L-1 linear amplifier and below that on the left the Hy-Gain rotator control for his 4-element multi-band Yagi just outside the hut. Lastly is the clearly identifiable Bird 43 wattmeter. Brando was into conservation, and worked with a number of people to try to be energy-efficient while on the island—which makes me wonder if he ever actually put that Collins linear amplifier on the air! To this day, the "Brando Resort" (completed in 2014) is still under lease to the Brando family and serves as an airstrip, research facility, "eco-resort", and spa.



# W7OS DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

## Featured Gear from the Museum

Photos & Text by Dave W7UUU



**THIS IS ONE OF THE MANY NON-DESCRIPT PIECES OF COOL** gear in the RCT museum collection. Tucked high on a shelf in the central library section of the clubhouse, most members likely have never noticed it. But it's actually a defining piece of the "radio scene" of the 1920s.

**It's important to remember:** the early radio era was about radio in all of its facets. Differentiation of radio interests was only beginning to evolve. So a "radio hobbyist" at that time may have been interested in just hearing local broadcasts and music on the 220-550 meter band (otherwise known as Medium Wave or MW... or even more commonly as the AM Broadcast band). Others were seeking signals on higher frequencies (the "short waves") hoping to hear signals from afar. Still others were reading the brand new magazine published by the American Radio Relay league (ARRL) beginning in 1915, and wanting to build their own transmitters—no longer just listening but now wanting to talk to others around the world!

**The piece featured here was pivotal** not for the ham radio world, but to help establish AM radio reception as a new media for the masses. In the early 1920s, the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) under David Sarnoff began buying up patents in this new field of tech and rushed products to the market. Their first successful series came with models in fast succession, under the Radiola brand. By 1924, the line had progressed to the Radiola III which was a 2-tube receiver that really took off. Just a few months later, the much-improved Radiola III-A really took the state of the art to the next level,

and became one of RCA's best selling models to take advantage of the exploding popularity of radio broadcasting by that time. (Think "internet 1996" - it was that big!). The Radiola III-A, priced at roughly \$57 (\$1036 today!), was a hybrid TRF (tuned radio frequency) design with regeneration for greater sensitivity and had two audio stages (the prior model only had one) so it was able to drive a horn style loudspeaker.

**This was one of the early landmark radio receivers**

in 1924-1925 and helped establish the RCA brand as one of the market leaders of the day. But despite all of this, it was still battery powered. It would be a few more years before "mains powered" receivers would become commonplace. Batteries were an expensive recurring cost for users, but a major profit center for the early



RCA Radiola III-A

Photo by: Dave W7UUU

companies providing A, B, and C style batteries for early adopters.

Readers with sharp eyes will notice two things: first, the external battery cable (for an A battery for filaments, B battery for 90v HV supply, and C battery for -4.5 volts grid bias) seems to come out the top of the cabinet.... that's because I tipped the radio over to take the photo! In actual use, the tubes would be pointing up—not out. Secondly, there's a knob missing for the top "Battery Setting" potentiometer... if anyone reading this happens to have one, please let me know and let's see if we can make our Radiola III-A whole again! -Dave W7UUU



# ANTENNA TIME

## The 2-Meter J-Pole: A Flawed Antenna

Dave W7UUU



ONE OF THE REALLY POPULAR ANTENNAS FOR YEARS in the amateur radio community is the J-Pole. And I get why—Its simplicity, omnidirectional pattern, and ability to be constructed from common materials make it an attractive—and *fun*—choice—especially for group-build projects.

**However, a significant issue often overlooked is** the unwanted coupling of RF energy to the coaxial feedline's shield. This problem can lead to performance degradation, radiation pattern distortion, and potential RF feedback issues.

The reason for these downsides all relate to the fact the J-Pole design offers no real ground plane.

Unlike other vertical antennas, such as a half-wave dipole or a quarter-wave ground plane, the J-pole lacks a clear ground plane or an efficient means of isolating the feedline from the radiating element. The design consists of a half-wave radiator fed at the base by a quarter-wave matching section. This configuration provides a really nice match to 50-ohm coaxial cable, but it does not inherently prevent RF from traveling back down the coaxial shield. That's not a good thing.

**The primary culprit behind this issue** is the unbalanced feed-point. Coaxial cable is inherently unbalanced, meaning that without proper isolation, RF currents can couple onto the shield and turn the *entire* feedline into part of the radiating system. This unintended radiation can cause pattern skewing, increased local interference, and even affect SWR readings depend-

ing on how the coax is routed.

When RF energy couples onto the shield, the coaxial cable itself begins to act as an unintentional radiator. This can lead to several bad effects:

**Pattern Distortion:** Instead of the expected omnidirectional pattern, the presence of current on the feedline can create asymmetry, causing some directions to have stronger or weaker signals than expected.

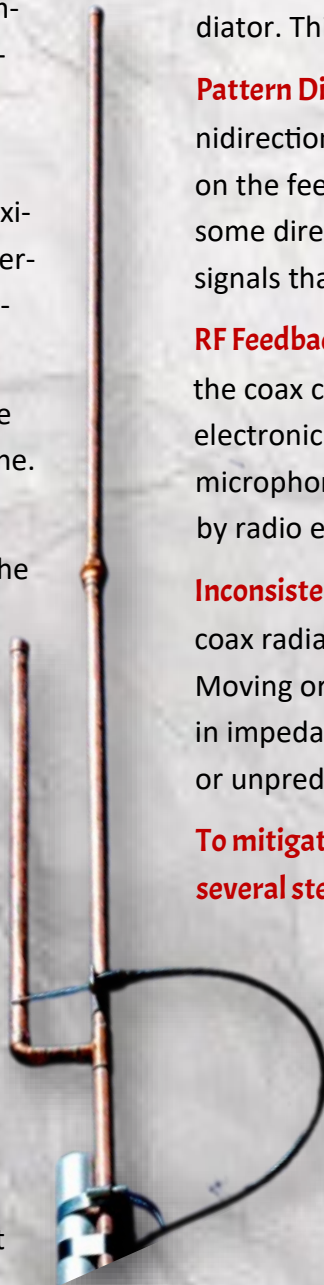
**RF Feedback and Interference:** Unwanted RF on the coax can lead to interference with nearby electronic devices and cause audio distortion in microphone circuits or erratic behavior in nearby radio equipment.

**Inconsistent SWR Readings:** The presence of coax radiation makes tuning *unpredictable*. Moving or coiling the coax can cause variations in impedance matching, leading to misleading or unpredictable SWR measurements.

**To mitigate shield coupling issues, you can take several steps:**

*Use a Common-Mode Choke.* A few turns of coax through a ferrite toroid or a commercially available choke can help block unwanted RF currents on the shield.

*Improve the mounting location.* Keeping the feedline away from metal structures and mounting the antenna high and clear of obstructions reduces coupling effects.





# ANTENNA TIME

## The 2-Meter J-Pole: A Flawed Antenna

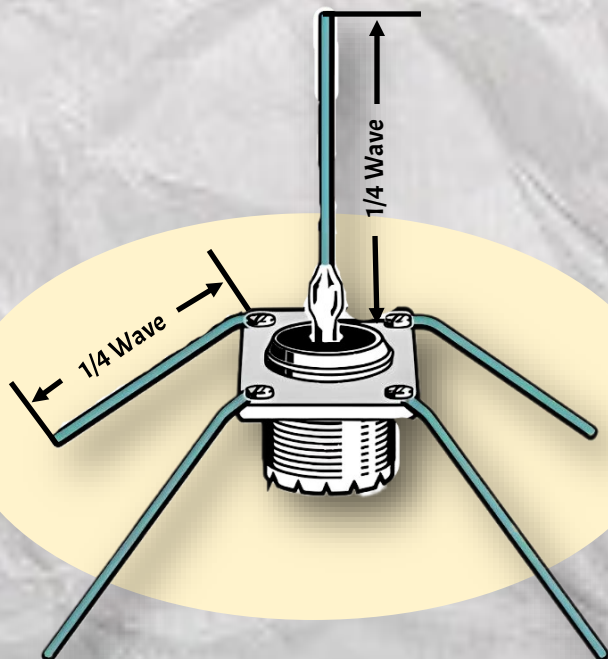
Dave W7UUU



But as time, interest, and resources allow you should consider alternative antennas, that are equally easy to build but very likely will perform better in the long run: a simple, properly grounded quarter-wave vertical with resonant radials or a dipole (which can be mounted vertically as long as the coax comes off perpendicular to the plane of the dipole wires) may provide similar or improved performance without the coupling issues and unpredictability that's so common with a J-Pole antenna.

While the J-pole remains a popular antenna choice for folks to build for fun, understanding and addressing its shortcomings can go a long way to improve upon the design.

-Dave W7UUU



A very simple 1/4-wave vertical that in many cases will outperform a J-Pole

## NEW Cush Craft SQUALO\*

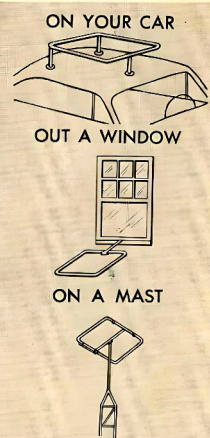
6-10-11-15-20 or 40 METERS

Cush Craft's continuing research produces another first —THE SQUARE HALO. Squalo is a full half wave, horizontally polarized, omnidirectional antenna. Outstanding all around performance is achieved through a 360° pattern with no deep nulls. Full size and compact dimensions provide a low Q for broad band coverage. Direct 52 ohm Reddi Match feed gives an SWR of 1.5-1 or less from 50 to 51 Mc.

The 6 and 11 meter Squalos are packaged complete with rubber suction cups for car top mounting and a horizontal support for mast or tower mounting. The 10-15-20 and 40 meter Squalos are designed for mast or tower mounting where space does not allow for larger antennas. Squalo is ideal for net control, monitoring, or general ham coverage.

Whether you are a beginner, apartment dweller, or serious DX man the space saver Squalo is for you. You can buy one for each band and build a Squalo Tree!

Model No.	Description	Net Price
ASQ-6	6 meter 30" square	\$12.50
ASQ-10	10 meter 50" square	19.50
CSQ-11	11 meter 50" square	19.50
ASQ-15	15 meter 65" square	23.50
ASQ-20	20 meter 100" square	29.50
ASQ-40	40 meter 192" square	66.50



\*Pronounced Squaylo

Cush Craft

621 HAYWARD ST.  
MANCHESTER N. H.

BUY FROM YOUR  
DISTRIBUTOR OR WRITE  
FOR FREE LITERATURE

ONE OF THE ICONIC ANTENNA DESIGNS of the 1950s and into the 60s was the Cushcraft Squalo. Originally designed just for 6 and 2 meters, it was expanded up to 40 meters eventually. It was essentially a half-wave dipole bent into a square to achieve full electrical length with compact dimensions. Lots of mounting options could be worked out but far and away the most common was the 6 and 2 meter versions mounted on a car's rooftop. The larger HF Squalos were more suited for mast mounting. Impedance was 52 ohms for standard coax, with a power rating of 100 to 200 watts PEP. ■ -editor

\*\*click image to see full size and zoomable





### Ten LEAST Populated Ham States

### Upcoming Ham Fests in the Area

FOR THIS MONTH'S TOP-10 IT'S REALLY THE BOTTOM 10... in that this table reflects the states with the *least* number of hams (current as of February 24, 2025 FCC counts). While many hams would agree that Delaware, Rhode Island, and Wyoming seem to be the perennial "Holdout States" for working and confirming all 50 U.S. states, surprisingly it's North Dakota that sports the fewest licensed hams. -Dave W7UUU

1	North Dakota - 1,501
2	Delaware - 1,758
3	Rhode Island - 1,864
4	Vermont - 2,045
5	South Dakota - 2,140
6	Wyoming - 2,307
7	Alaska - 3,170
8	Hawaii - 3,462
9	Maine - 4,383
10	Montana - 4,435

Data published with permission from [Lynn at N7CFO.com](https://www.n7cfo.com)

**April 12.** N7YRC Tailgate Party, Union Gap, WA. Yakima Valley Emergency Management, 2403 S. 18th St., Union Gap, WA. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/n7yrc-tailgate-party-3> [Map in PDF.](#)

**April 19.** Kamiah Hamfest. [NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!] American Legion Hall 618 Main St. Kamiah, ID. <https://www.3riversarc.club> *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.*

**April 26.** Spokane Hamfest, ARRL Washington State Convention. Horizon Middle School, 3915 S. Pines Rd, Spokane Valley, WA 99206. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* [Flyer in PDF.](http://spokanehamfest.org/) <http://spokanehamfest.org/>

**April 27.** Comox Ham Swap Market. (Vancouver Island). Vendor Set up 8:30 (approx.), Public 9 am – 1 pm. Merville Hall (yellow building), 1245 Fenwick Rd at Hwy 19A. (just 15 min. North of Courtenay on the old highway), Merville BC. LOTS OF FREE PARKING. Seller tables \$20 (6' table), HELPER \$5. CONTACT BRIAN, VE7RD, [sells795@telus.net](mailto:sells795@telus.net) DOOR PRIZES! COFFEE & DONUTS ADMISSION JUST \$5. Presented by the Comox Valley Amateur Radio Club.

**May 4.** Spring Swap Meet. Pitt Meadows, BC. [https://hambone.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event\\_ID=2408](https://hambone.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event_ID=2408)

**May 10.** Stanwood Camano ARC 32nd Annual Electronic Flea Market and Hamfest. Stanwood, WA. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* [https://scarcwa.org/ham\\_fest.shtm](https://scarcwa.org/ham_fest.shtm) .

**May 30, 31 and June 1.** SEA-PAC Hamfest and ARRL Northwestern Division Convention. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* [info@seapac.org](mailto:info@seapac.org) . [www.seapac.org/](http://www.seapac.org/) . [November edition of SeaPac Waves.](#) [February edition of SeaPac Waves.](#)



Radio Club of Tacoma Ham Fair 1970



# HAM TECH 101

Useful tech info for newer hams and old

*Other Resources for New Hams*

This column is reprinted monthly with permission of  
AF5NP from his blog [www.NEWHAMS.info](http://www.NEWHAMS.info)

By Jim AF7NP, NewHams.info

Here at NewHams.info we don't pretend to be the ultimate authority or only game in town. While we may have a lock on this website domain name, there are other truly useful and interesting sources with good information for new or prospective ham radio operators and we want to share some of these with you here.

The ARRL produces an audio podcast entitled [So Now What?](#) It is a bi-weekly podcast geared to those who are just getting started on their Amateur Radio adventure. Whether you're new to the hobby or looking to get back on the air after an absence, we know that you've got lots of questions.

You can access and/or subscribe on Apple and Android to listen in with mobile phones or you can link to a web stream via [Blubrry at this LINK](#).

A page on NOJI's website is entitled, [For New Hams](#). It has quite a bit of detail. Topics include:

- First steps
- Equipment
- Making contact

- Service and groups
- Preparedness
- Activities
- Just curious
- Above and beyond
- Assistance

eHam.net has an informational page: [Guide to Amateur Radio for New Hams](#).

St Louis radio club web page: [New Ham Radio User Portal](#).

State of Play site topic: [All About Ham Radio for Beginners](#) has some good links and info. Thanks to Connor for the suggestion.

Great website with tons of educational material, Ham Radio School: [Basics](#)

HRS also has a topic: [I Got My License, Now What?](#)

**As other related new ham resources come** to our attention we will update this post to add links.

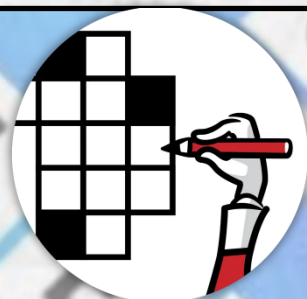
Thanks to The Radio Club of Tacoma and The Logger's Bark Magazine for letting us put these links out there. The goal of NewHams.info (and this column) is to help those new to amateur radio to find their way in this great hobby.

-Jim AF7NP, [NewHams.info](http://NewHams.info)



# FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



Find Modern Radio Brands! Print this page to play!

AMERITRON®

BAOFENG



DAEWOO

ELECRAFT



ICOM

KENWOOD

MFJ



QRP Labs

Wouxun®

YAESU

TYT®

XIEGU

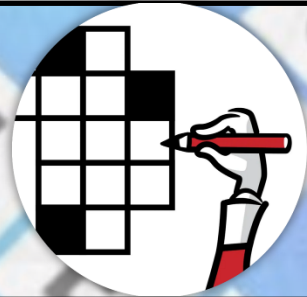
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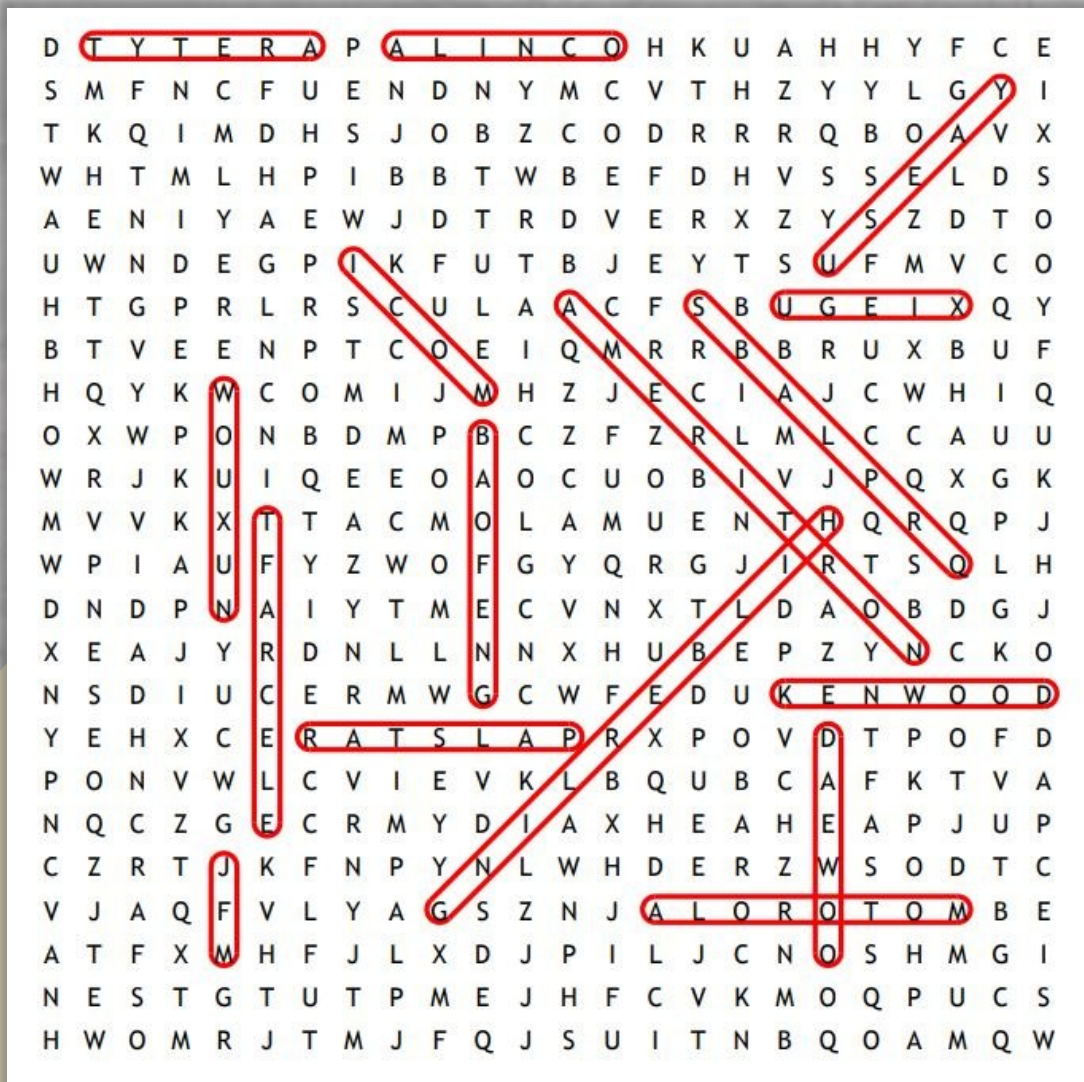


# FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



Answer Key... but don't cheat!



Alinco

Xiegu

Ameritron

Palstar

MFJ

Tytera

Daewoo

Hilberling

Motorola

QRPLABS

Wouxun

Baofeng

Icom

Kenwood

Yaesu

Elecraft





# CLOSING REMARKS

**JOIN NOW!**



W7DK

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Logger's Bark is the official publication of the Radio Club of Tacoma and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law. All proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98405, phone: 253-759-2040.

## EMAILING OFFICERS

To contact any club officer, simply send an email to their call sign @W7DK.org

## CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARTICLES & PHOTOS

We WELCOME contributions of articles, guest editorials, blurbs, Hints-and-Kinks, shack photos, QSL cards, memorable contacts, anything of interest to your fellow members. Submit your materials via email to: [loggersbark@gmail.com](mailto:loggersbark@gmail.com) or via US mail to PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411 Nichrome

## RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA REPEATERS

Central Tacoma 2m: 147.28 + PL Tone 103.5  
Central Tacoma 70cm: 440.625 + PL Tone 103.5  
Crawford Mountain: 147.380 + PL Tone 103.5  
North Tacoma: 145.21 - PL Tone 141.3

The Loggers Bark **does not** accept AI / ChatGPT submissions

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$20 per year.
- Fees are applicable for the calendar year: January to December
- Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.
- Visit [www.w7dk.org](http://www.w7dk.org) For the latest and most current information on events and activities

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
**CLICK HERE!**

HAVE A SUBMISSION FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?

[loggersbark@W7DK.org](mailto:loggersbark@W7DK.org)



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

## Radio Club of Tacoma Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 5th, 2025

Meeting called to order at \_\_\_\_\_ 1900 \_\_\_\_\_.

### Officers and Directors Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
<input type="checkbox"/> V. President	Manny Adonis AD7MA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treasurer	Doug Schafer AB7DG (Temp)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board	Dan Vacanti KD7SV
<input type="checkbox"/> Board	Dave Ashley W7GEL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

**NOTE:** These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Quorum? 5 of 9 Officers / Directors needed. ☐ YES ☐

**Motion for approval of Minutes as previously distributed:** Motion made by: President Adam, seconded by Mike W7MKE. Motion carried.

### Silent Key or Illness?

None reported

### Presidents' updates:

Prez updates: John AC7WW is stepping down from his VEC position. Stephan AD7AB Will be taking his place as training and examination coordinator.

There was a memorial for Rich N7ANF on Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup> that was well attended by friends and Family of Rich. This was reported as an ask in the January BOD meeting minutes. Rich was a long-standing member of the Radio Club, and we will miss him.

### Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

Membership renewals are still trickling in. Even the usual bank statements, some bills, and magazines.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Secretary Gary WG7X reminds everyone that this month's Board of Directors meeting will be focused on approving the budgets that were circulated in January. We should have read all the budgets by now, but some additional discussion may be necessary. For reference, a budget addendum was attached to the previous mailings of this agenda and was available in printed form at this meeting.

Secretary Gary WG7X made a motion to approve the budgets as previously distributed: Seconded by Mike W7MKE.

Discussion follows: President provided us with charts and graphs laying out his proposal for a Budget from the treasurer to the BOD for core expenses. BOD decided to discuss this new proposal later with a small committee to investigate the details and report back.

Here is President Adam W2NCC's proposal:

Before a vote on committee funding requests, the board needs to agree on a 2025 budget. Per the bylaws the treasurer submits a 2025 budget to the board. At last month's board meeting I proposed using 2024 income for the 2025 budget. See Below.

Also, the board needs a budget. There are many funding requests that the board approves that are not connected to a committee. These approved funding requests should be tracked in a board budget.

Visual representation of the 2025 budget breakout

- Core Expenses
- Committee budgets
- Board Budget
- Savings



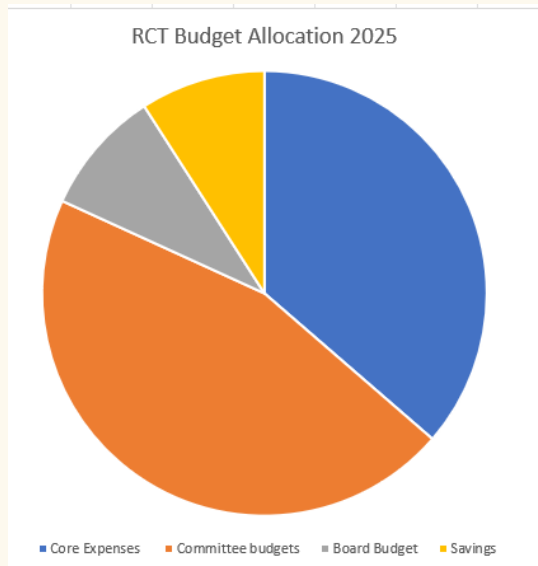


# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK



Proposed 2025 RCT Budget: The Radio Club of Tacoma has three primary sources of funding: Membership Dues, Property Management (PMT), and proceeds from the Salmon Run event. These income streams have historically provided the financial foundation for our club's operations and activities. For the 2025 budget, we can use the actual income data from 2024 as the baseline. This approach will provide a practical framework, reflecting the club's current financial trends. The club's historical financial data is currently not easily accessible. In the future, once access to historical data is available, analyzing income trends over a three-year period will provide a more accurate income projection.

Mike W7MKE suggested that a small budget committee to address the president's proposal be formed and that their work would be separate from the initial budget. Discussion continued with the mechanics necessary to make this work.

There were two additions to the budget added at the meeting.

BJ KO7T asked for the following budget:

QSL cards (1000): \$\*\*\*\*

Rubber stamps: \$\*\*\*\*

Rubber Stamp (full Stomp): \$\*\*\*\*

Large Envelopes: \$\*\*\*\*

Certificates (500): \$\*\*\*\*

Admin Lunch: \$\*\*\*\*

Postage: \$\*\*\*\*

Admin Dinner: \$\*\*\*\*



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

TOTAL Ask: \$\*\*\*\*

Dan KD7SV added an ask for \$\*\*\*\* dollars for the museum.

\$\*\*\*\* total budgets dollars asked for and approved. This number may appear excessive, but it really is the bare bones needed to run RCT and the programs that we want to do. We can sustain this level of outgo due to the efforts of the various committees and programs that generate revenue, most notably the salmon run, membership and PMT. The Bigfoot Special event also paid for itself with a \$650 profit back to RCT; not to mention that it was fun!

Motion listed above passed... No objections. A new committee will be formed and report back on the President's proposal.

## Treasurer's Report (Doug Schafer as Temporary Treasurer)

Temporary Treasurer Doug Schafer reports that we ended 2024 with about the same amount of funds that we had at the close of 2023. Doug also indicates that the QUICKBOOKS software is very cumbersome, and he suggests the program that was suggested before last January as a solution for the 2025 treasurer to use... Program is called "Money Minder" which is written for small charities like the RCT. The price of this will be a bit more expensive than it was last year. It is a subscriber type program that will run the club \$300.

Shay Winget has acquired the program subscription on her own and it is suggested that we change the course to this program when the new treasurer is on board and working.

Treasurer Doug Schafer made a motion to acquire this program, Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE seconded this motion. Doug gave examples of other organizations using this program. Dave AC7KP asked about a shopping addition to the website. President Adam explained that this will be something that we need to look at.

Treasurer Doug made a motion to acquire this Money Minder program. Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE seconded. After a quick discussion, this motion passed.

Treasurer Doug also renewed our insurance and is asking for a list of equipment that needs to be covered, Manny Adonis AD7MA will need to provide this list for updating the insurance coverage.

## Committee Reports

### Camp Quest NW CQNW (Sam N9MII & Becky [KG7FZH](#))

Becky reported success with the CQ NW event that was held at the clubhouse in January a great time was had by all. Summary follows:





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Report from Sam N9MII and Becky KG7FZH:

Camp Quest NorthWest Radio Weekend 2025 involved 21 participants aged 13 through elder grown-up age teaching and learning fundamentals of radio through hands-on activities including:

- Simple circuits
- Improv skits around safety practices and FCC regulations
- Wave theory demonstration in the nearby park using ropes and playground swings
- Drawing posters of atmospheric layers
- Taking over a community broadcast station for a morning
- Singing silly radio-themed songs around an electronic campfire
- Checking into a net
- Utilizing the HF room under experienced operators' guidance

Sitting for a mock exam

In contrast to Radio Weekend 2024, where Sam was the primary instructor, teaching of content this year was distributed across multiple instructors, many of whom were adult participants last year who earned their tech licenses in 2024. We capitalized on the expertise and interests of participants, with youth engaging in peer-to-peer instruction and guidance as well. Key achievements:

- 9 youth aged 13-18 participated
- 4 youth 13-18 earned their technician license
- 1 youth aged 15 upgraded to general
- 1 adult volunteer earned their tech

1 adult volunteer upgraded to extra

The VE session went smoothly--it was the second session for the W7DK VE team using the new digital submission process. We look forward to Camp Quest Northwest folk's continued ingress into the world of amateur radio!

## Property Management (Red WB7EC)

Red reports \$776 dollars taken in from sales in January. Red then discussed budgets and the proposal that President Adam made. Discussion ensued about the pie chart allocations. Red indicated that he is getting ready for M&K swap meet and the load out will be on the Saturday before the event.

## Facilities Management (Adam W2NCC)

Adam is looking for repairs to the clubhouse doors. He is also looking forward to general gardening around



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

the clubhouse when the weather gets better / warmer.

## General Meeting (Dave W7UUU)

February's program will be the living history video of Steve Dightman AF7YD.

## HF Operations(Phil K7PIA)

Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE indicated that everything is OK. We operated the winter field day with 14 operators and everyone enjoyed the event. They made 401(!) contacts. Mike also mentioned the Thursday HF committee operating event. Usually, six or seven people show up and get a chance to operate the HF stations.

## Info Tech and Website (Randy WB4SPB)

All systems are nominal. Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE reports that the keyboard on the emcomm station is dead. Randy will be looking into that.

## Library (Doug AD7AV)

Librarian Doug gave his report this was sent out to the BOD in January. Please refer to that month's minutes and attachments for the complete text. George Salisbury has written an article on the library which is in the library annex for reading.

Doug indicated that he has a high commitment to the Pierce County ARES community and that he is also the chief radioman at PLU. Doug stresses that the library is at its optimum state considering the volunteers that are on the committee. Work will continue work on the catalogue as time permits. We have over 1000 assets (books) in the stacks. He mentions that not too many books are coming into the ham radio arena, but he is keeping an eye out for new material.

He also mentioned subscriptions to various magazines. \$327.56 was spent last year on continuing subscriptions. Donations are still coming into the library but way too many for the library. Many of them went to the free table.

## Membership (Mike W7XH)

Membership stands at 356. Mike is continuing the new member certificates. Everything else is continuing as normal... Renewals, new members, clearing the data base etcetera... Mike Drorbaugh asked if membership certificates are issued each year to everyone. Mike W7XH indicated that no certificates are issued to new members and sometimes to returning members if they've been absent for several years. Basically, membership certificates are a one-time issue.





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



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## Museum (Dan KD7SV)

Dan reports that last month they made 64 contacts with the boat anchor equipment during SK night. They made 52 contacts using the HT-32 transmitter and Drake R-4 receiver. Made a contact all the way to Chile.

He also mentions having to move stuff around in the museum. They had to redo some of the older power cords due to wear and strange wiring in the older equipment. Dan then asked Mike W7XH about the possibility of installing GFI outlets in the museum. Mike answered in the affirmative.

## Planning Committee (Manny AD7MA)

Manny's committee has decided to resurrect the RCT ham fair that we did at PLU. Dave W7UUU recounted various events that happened at the ham fair when he was a youngster. Resistor hunts, CW sending using toilet seats, stuff like that.

Manny asked for permission to move forward on this idea. General approval was given if the planning committee identifies a committee chair and reports back in three months.

Summary follows:

### From the Planning Committee:

In our last 2-3 recent committee meetings, planning committee members were identifying several items as prospects for future W7DK events. One prospect that has repeatedly surfaced and has now become the focal point of our discussions is the resurgence of the annual W7DK Hamfair event.

Committee members unanimously agreed to move forward and conduct a more detailed research analysis with the idea of the club hosting our first W7DK Hamfair in 2026.

Our objective is to resurrect the W7DK Hamfair, akin to those previously hosted by the club, with the aim of establishing it as an annual event. Our first objective is to seek a W7DK Hamfair Event Manager that will take the lead and research and if possible, plan such an event.

We understand this will be a huge undertaking for the club. The past Hamfairs we have hosted have been deemed successful. Despite having fewer members at that time, we were able to effectively manage and execute the event. With our current growing membership, we are optimistic that we can rally the necessary volunteers to ensure the event's success.

We're proposing to the Board that we reinstate the W7DK Hamfair as a major club event, aiming for 2026 and beyond. The designated Hamfair Event Manager will report back in three months with a recommenda-





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

tion on its feasibility.

Discussion ensued with BOD members exchanging memories of hamfairs of the past. Some of the stories were funny. That said, no decisions forthcoming immediately. It was suggested that the planning committee talk to some of the long-time members of the club and the Board to get a better idea of how this would work.

## POTA (BJ KO7T)

BJ reports that Christian Rohrbach KK7AIX (Not an RCT Member) came with him to the clubhouse then he was involved in a big accident on the way home. Five cars. Christian's truck was totaled but he and BJ are OK. BJ is on the injured disabled list and will stay at home per boss' orders!

POTA is scheduling at least two a month and BJ is on track for the Spring & Summer POTA events. Schedule to follow.

BJ also thanked David AC7KP for running the net this last Tuesday. BJ is looking to run another weekday net on two meters. Stand by for info.

## Repeater Ops (AL N7OMS)

The board of directors needs to discuss and approve of the installation of the Yaesu DR-2X repeater at the clubhouse. Bob Purdom has this repeater, and they have an amp for it. This would be a one-for-one change requiring very little in the way of support.

Dan, KD7SV asked about the various modes available on this machine, indicating that he prefers radio to radio links versus an Echo-link type addition.

Sam N9MII made a request to let them update the repeater. Mike W7MKE made the motion. Adam W2NCC seconded it, and the motion passed.

## Training (Stephan AD7AB)

No class this weekend; testing on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Tower (Nick K7MO)





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

The tower is still a project in wait status. We are waiting for a cable tray and some other parts to be available.

## VE (John AC7WW)

Your VE Team held an exam session for Camp Quest on Monday January 20, 2025. We graded 20 exams from 12 applicants with 5 Technicians joining the Amateur Service. One upgraded to General, and one upgraded to Extra. Five applicants failed to get an initial license.

Thanks to the following for their efforts and time.

Stephen AD7AB, Whit KG7LNZ, Rich KK7VH, Howard NY6W, Mike W7XH, Brendan W7BMK.

Then John says this: "I am retiring from being the ARRL VE Liaison after 20 plus years. Stephen Morton AD7AB will be taking my place."! Let's all thank John for his long service to RCT...

## Wednesday Workshop (Randy WB4SPB)

Next workshops will ultimately result in construction of an antenna with a 9:1 balun. The preliminary workshop was a Zoom event; next fourth Wednesday's event will be at the clubhouse on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Unfinished Business:

None reported.

## New Business:

Nothing submitted.

Adjournment at: \_\_\_\_\_ 2117 \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X

**Attachments:** Attendance sheets.

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
Board of Directors Meeting / Agenda  
February 5th, 2025





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

	NAME	CALLSIGN	RCT NUM
	<b>ATTENDED at Clubhouse</b>	Only non-BOD members BOD at top of minutes.	Applies to Eagles and at clubhouse.
1	Al Ferguson	N7OMS	2107
2	Bob Purdom	AD7LJ	2240
3	Paul Nosal	K7OSS	2530
4	Doug Oakman	AD7AV	2141
5	David Stilwell	AC7KP	2073
6	Becky Friedman	KG7FZH	2788
	<b>Attended via ZOOM</b>		
1	Dave Ellison	W7UUU	742
2	Red Cranefield	WB7EC	2561
3	BJ Rollison	KO7T	3001
4	Dan Vacanti	KD7SV	2640
5	Sam Mulvey	N9MII	2786
6	George Salisbury	K7GRS	2586
7	Randy Myers	WB4SPB	2050





# GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the December 2024 meeting



W7DK

## Radio Club of Tacoma General Meeting Minutes February 8th, 2025

Meeting called to order at \_\_\_\_\_ 1300 \_\_\_\_\_.

### Officers and Directors Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	V. President	Manny Adonis AD7MA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer	Doug Schafer AB7DG (Temp)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Dan Vacanti KD7SV
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Dave Ashley W7GEL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

**NOTE:** These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Quorum? (10% of membership is needed to conduct business.) \_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_

Flag salute led by: Dan KD7SV

Visitors? None

New Members: Karen Oi K4KOI & Jiro Oi KW6A

Silent Key or Illness:

### Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

Nothing important, however, budgets for 2025 were read, discussed and approved.

### General Meeting Program (Dave W7UUU)

February 8th: Tribute to Steve Dightman - In person (Dave W7UUU)

### Chair /Committee Reports



# GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the December 2024 meeting



W7DK

VE (John AC7WW)

**Treasurer:** Shay Winget WI7NGS will be an assistant treasurer / eventual permanent treasurer, and Doug Shafer will also continue in the temporary position until Shay is ready to take over.

**Tower committee:** Entry panel in the clubhouse to coax the repeater. Is in place thanks to assistance from Dave W7GEL.

**Winter field day:** Mike W7MKE discussed winter field day coming up. January 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 30-hour event. We will operate from the clubhouse using club power. Actual power output will be decided at the time of the event.

## Important Items / Activities coming up?

**Pota winter day:** 19<sup>th</sup> of January on the website. Also, Mineral winter fest January 25<sup>th</sup> is the Mineral winter fest.

Becky Friedman KG7FZH reminds us that CQNW will be using our clubhouse for their previously scheduled event. This upcoming weekend January 17<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Karl Moore NA7KM, from the American Legion Post in Puyallup offers help with veteran's questions about benefits after the meeting.

**Memorial service for Rich Manson:** Rich Manson's ex-wife, Arlene, reached out asking if the club would host a memorial service for Rich. She is asking for a memorial service at the clubhouse. Also, as part of the service she would like some of Rich's ashes to spread on the property. It turns out that spreading ashes on the property is OK with the state. Dave W7GEL made a motion to let this happen with up to \$150 Seconded by Gary, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 PM will be the date and time.

## Member Questions?

Nick Winter K7MO asked about operating RCT equipment remotely from home for the winter field day. Unfortunately, RCT equipment is not currently set up for that.

## Activity reports, Discussion Topics, Announcements?





# GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the December 2024 meeting



W7DK

**Door prize won by:** Frank Hero, KC1PIU. It was a Heathkit wattmeter.

**Adjournment at:** \_\_\_\_\_1427\_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X**

**Attachments:** Attendance sheets.

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
General Meeting Agenda / Minutes  
January 11th, 2025





# GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the December 2024 meeting



W7DK

	NAME	CALLSIGN	RCT NUM
	<b>ATTENDED at Eagles</b>	<small>Only non-BOD members BOD at top of minutes.</small>	<small>Applies to Eagles and at clubhouse.</small>
1	Karl Moore	NA7KM	2325
2	Nelson Hauke	K7CX	Guest
3	Karen Oi	K4KOI	Guest
4	Jiro Oi	KW6A	Guest
5	David Stilwell	AC7KP	3028
6	Walt Morey	WA7SDY	2763
7	Chuck Kemmer	AC7QN	2088
8	Dave Ellison	W7UUU	743
9	Nick Winter	K7MO	640
10	Anna Winter	K7ANA	2228
11	Bob Heselberg	K7MXE	461
12	Scott Honaker	N7SS	Guest
13	Phil Shideler	KC7PS	2853
14	John Terril	N7TES	2733
15	Julie Cunningham	W7JUL	3158
16	Phil Pia	K7PIA	2681
17	Bob Purdom	AD7LJ	2240
18	Al Ferguson	N7OMS	2107
19	Mike Mikuchonis	W7XTZ	2470
20	Ross Van Deen	W7ROV	Guest
21	Frank Hero	KC1PIU	Guest
22	Diane Sim	W7SIM	2304
23	Randy Myers	WB4SPB	2050
24	Dan Vacanti	KD7SV	2640
25	Scott Smith	KF7ZFL	3450
26	Becky Friedman	KG7FZH	2788
27	Sam Mulvey	N9MII	2786
28	Leonard Burstiner	KA7NWF	2308
	<b>Attended via ZOOM</b>		
1	<u>Ryan Eaton</u>	W7SFO	3173
2	Jeff Smythe	KB7QAG	1143